



The Tartan

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- The Flying Superintendent
- Clan MacDowall in Galloway

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Fairchild KR-34 biplane/ Photo courtesy of the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre

The Flying Superintendent

When Frank Archibald MacDougall became the new Superintendent of Algonquin Park, an area of Ontario one-tenth the size of Scotland, this is the biplane he used to patrol it – a year-old Fairchild KR-34 built 1931 with a wingspan: 29' 10" (9.1 m.); length of 22' 10" (6.1 m.); powered by a 165 hp engine.

For flying in spring, summer and fall, Frank equipped it with floats to land on the lakes and rivers in the park's rugged landscape where there were almost no roads. For patrols during the Canadian winter, it had skis for landing on snow and ice. That was when Frank flew bundled up in its open cockpit in fur lined clothes – fur lined pants up to his armpits, fur lined boots and helmet, fur trimmed goggles, and fur lined mitts up to his elbows. Even so, he would return to his headquarters at Cache Lake shivering with cold from a winter patrol.

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President's Report

Dear Members, Contributors, and Kin,



It is with great pleasure that I have the opportunity as President to invite You to celebrate with us during our weekend at 2025 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.

We now celebrate 60 years of collecting and preserving history that relates to Clans MacDougall and MacDowall; of helping to preserve historical sites like Kilbride, Dylen, and Dunollie; of facilitating academic study of traditional Scottish topics like history, archaeology, the Gaelic language, dancing, piping and drums; of supporting literary, historical and educational activities as determined by our Board of Directors. It is all thanks to you, our members and volunteers, that we get to celebrate the past 60 years and this wonderful anniversary experience.

Thank You!

We - the Board of Directors - invite You to join this celebration. The Society is hosting a dinner on Saturday evening at Stonewalls Restaurant. Join us from 6 to 7pm for drinks and socializing. Dinner will begin at 7pm sharp along with introductions and our special events for the evening. We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Misha Gauthier

Email Misha

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Our First Page Sixty Years Ago

This is a year to celebrate our heritage. To commemorate our sixtieth year of publishing The Tartan newsletter for our members, we thought it would be nice to look back to the very first page of our very first issue from September 1965 written by our first President, John W. McDougall. Our Society has accomplished much in the past sixty years and, with your support, we will accomplish even more in future. *The Editor*

VOLUME I—No. 1

SEPTEMBER, 1965

Ceud Mile Failte From Clan MacDougall Society President

"Ceud Mile Failte" in Gaelic means one hundred thousand welcomes. This is quite a few welcomes, but it is not too many to express my appreciation to the one hundred and thirty MacDougalls who in so few months have so willingly joined our Clan Society.

I humbly appreciate the honor of being chosen as the first president of the Clan MacDougall Society of the United States, and I pledge that I will do my very best to carry out my duties to accomplish the purposes of our Society.

The inspiration behind all that we have done was initiated by our Chief, Madam Coline MacDougall of MacDougall, and I want to thank her for all of us. Those of us on the Organizing Committee have asked many favors of her, and I know that she has given us much of her time.

There have been most rewarding compensations for the work that I have done so far. Working as closely as I have with the other members of the Organizing Committee has been a rich experience. Edward McDougal's assistance in writing the By-

Laws and the papers of incorporation has been an invaluable help. Donald McDougal Senior and Junior have worked hard on our mailing lists. Donald Junior has written to each new member in sending out membership cards and has handled our financial matters. My brother Wylie has spent a great deal of time on research and correspondence, and in offering to edit THE TARTAN he will contribute perhaps more than any of us.

Not the least of the rewarding experiences was the enthusiastic letters that were received with many membership applications. Letters were received from thirty states. Nearly all of the letters indicated an intense interest in historical and genealogical facts. We will answer as many questions as we can through articles in "THE TARTAN" and by correspondence.

Those who have been fortunate enough to have seen Dunollie Castle will understand the feeling that I had when I first viewed the stone and ivy-covered walls and was told that MacDougalls built Dunollie, lived within its walls and defended it for many centuries. As these facts were told to me, the name MacDougall had a new ring and significance for me. I felt that I would have a special kinship for anyone with the name MacDougall. I believe that any MacDougall would experience the same sensation. If this is true, then surely there is a reason for a Clan MacDougall Society. We certainly have something more in common than just a name to pass on to future generations of MacDougalls.

While the walls of Dunollie Castle are crumbling, they are still nearly one hundred feet high. I would like to see these walls preserved so that the future generations of MacDougalls will have a shrine to visit and can be inspired as other MacDougalls have been. If this is to be accomplished we must increase our membership. I hope you will all join me in this objective. Our By-Laws enumerate our other objectives, which are equally important.

I only wish our entire membership could have attended our first meeting. Getting to know these new friends, with so much in common, was still another rewarding experience, and I am sure that this will become the finest experience of all.

An article entitled, "What is a Scot" that I read recently starts out by saying, "The Scot is, of course, the world's greatest paradox, noted equally for his hard headed down to earth common sense and his unblushing, indeed entirely determined, sentimentality." If this is true of Scots in general then it must be true of MacDougalls, and I do not know of any combination of traits that would lend as much to the success and enjoyment of a Society such as ours.



Madam Coline MacDougall, 30th hereditary Chief of the Clan MacDougall, and her husband, Leslie Grahame MacDougall, Esq. R.S.A.

The Flying Superintendant (cont)

Frank MacDougall was the first of a series of “Flying Superintendents” at the park. Though there were park rangers, poaching of the park’s protected wildlife for game and furs was the major concern for the park’s administrators until Frank’s introduction of regular air patrols in the winter of 1932. In 2 ½ hours his daily patrols could circle the huge park while he searched for poachers and fires. His innovative use of air patrols quickly proved their worth as the poaching trade took a sharp decline – but sometimes he carried out emergency missions transporting sick or injured people. In 1939 the KR-34 was replaced by a larger float plane, the Stinson Reliant SR 10, which gave Frank the luxury of an enclosed cabin instead of the open cockpit. Even so, these small early aircraft could carry few passengers and little of the cargo required to support park ranger canoe patrols lasting up to 10 days in the wilderness of the park.



Frank MacDougall with the McKee Trophy in 1964

After Frank MacDougall was promoted to Deputy Minister of Lands and Forests in Toronto in 1941, his department was one of the earliest to experiment with using airplanes to water bomb fires detected from the air. For forestry work, he knew a specially designed plane was needed that could be fitted with wheels, skis or pontoons for take offs and landings in rugged terrain in all seasons. His department worked with the De Havilland Aircraft Company to build the bush plane it required. The Beaver aircraft design specification was based upon input that Frank MacDougall and other Forestry Service pilots derived from own experiences.

From the beginning it was a powerful little plane, and it became even more powerful when later equipped a Turbo engine. It could take off on 1165 feet of water while carrying 6 passengers, a pilot and 2100 pounds of cargo. Produced from 1948 to 1967, many are still flying. The Turbo Beaver at Algonquin Park used today was purchased in July 1966. Designed for rugged terrain, the Beaver became the world standard for bush plane performance. Some were sold to the US Army and other militaries, but most were used by Bush pilots.

Frank MacDougall flew the first production Beaver and flew others during inspection trips until his retirement in 1966. For his work in forest protection and the development of the Beaver, Frank received Canada’s highest aviation award, the Trans-Canada (McKee) Trophy in 1963, and in 1973 he was elected to Canada’s Aviation Hall of Fame.

While Frank was Superintendent of Algonquin Park in the 1930s, road access through the park was expanded to create the 35 mile (56 km.) section of Highway 60 containing some of the most famous scenery in Canada – including scenic lakes and land formations that were painted by Group of Seven painter Tom Thomson. In August 1976, this section was renamed the Frank



The Flying Superintendant (cont)

MacDougall Parkway in honour of his 10 years as Park Superintendent and 25 years as Deputy Minister of Lands and Forests. The plaque erected near Dwight, Ontario says in part:

As Deputy Minister, Department of Lands and Forests 1941-66, Mr. MacDougall was instrumental in the creation of the provincial parks system in Ontario. He was also responsible for significant advances in virtually every field of natural resources management.

All of this and more was accomplished by a man who had chosen forestry after receiving medical advice to work outside to counter the effects of the gas attacks he had endured on the battlefields of France in World War I. Frank passed away in 1976 at age 79 after a life of accomplishments recognized by many awards.

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MacDougall

Clan MacDowall of Galloway

Branches and Castles

By Christopher McDowell

Origins in Galloway

As one would imagine, documenting the beginnings of Clan MacDowall is challenging, given that history and physical evidence were lost over a millennium. Galloway was then a quasi-autonomous region, often caught in conflict between Scotland and England. We do know that Clan MacDowall – and most of the fifty or so names and spellings associated with the clan – emerged as a feudal family at the furthest tip of southwest Scotland in the area of Galloway known as the Rhins. Though little evidence remains today, Clan MacDowall once dominated the Rhins, a hammerhead shaped peninsula on the eastern shore of the North Channel. That critical waterway separates Scotland and Northern Ireland by a mere twenty-six miles. Waterway inlets at the north and south ends of the Rhins peninsula provided easy access for the galleys sailing the North Channel to control sea trade or carry out naval warfare. Many MacDowalls would sail cross this corridor to settle in Ulster, Ireland before ultimately crossing the Atlantic to become an early and influential presence in the American colonies and beyond.



There is significant lore surrounding Fergus of Galloway, but the murky history indicates that he was likely a member of a native family who ruled Galloway under Norse overlords. He assumed the Princedom of Galloway under an alliance with Henry I of England, whose daughter, Elizabeth, he married. Their daughter, Affrica, was married to King Olaf the Red, who ruled the then very powerful nearby Norse island Kingdom of Man and the Isles. Olaf had a daughter named Ragnhild by another woman, but Fergus was not related to her or her husband Somerled, who ruled in mainland Argyll at the time of their marriage circa 1138. Until his death in 1161, Fergus attempted to keep Galloway independent of Scotland and England but in the end the King of Scots prevailed.

On Fergus' passing his two sons, Uchtred and Gilbert, divided the lands of Galloway between them. Uchtred founded the feudal Lordship of Galloway in eastern Galloway, but lost it in 1174, when murdered by his brother, Gilbert, who held western Galloway. Uchtred's own two sons fled into a ten-year exile in Scotland to escape their uncle Gilbert. Uchtred's eldest son, Roland, recovered Galloway with the aid of King William of Scotland. Uchtred's younger son, Duegald, was killed in battle in 1185 supporting Roland's return to Galloway. Duegald was the founder of the MacDowall families who arose in the Rhins, and the ancestor of the Chief of the Garthland branch. Duegald's elder brother Roland's descendants ruled the powerful Scottish Lordship of Galloway until the legitimate male line ended in the 1230s and the king of Scots divided its lands among three daughters who carried their inheritances to their wealthy husbands.

After the Galloway lordship broke apart in the 1230s, Duegald's Macdoual descendants continued to be an important local family in Galloway. In 1296 King Edward I of England

Clan MacDowall of Galloway (cont)



invaded Scotland and deposed its king of Scots, John Baliol, a distant relative of the MacDowalls, but a close relative of the powerful Comyns who had Clan MacDougall allies. In February 1306 Robert the Bruce murdered his Comyn rival who had a better right to the throne of Scotland and attempted to seize the crown for himself. Between 1306 and 1357 all four families suffered greatly for opposing Bruce's new dynasty and supporting the legitimate rights of the Baliols during the brutal First and Second Wars of Scottish Independence. After the second war ended, the first cadet (branch or offshoot) of the Macdowalls of Garthland, Makerstoun, was founded in 1361, but there were many other offshoots in the following centuries.

By the 1500s, the MacDowall holdings were diminished and castles in ruins or occupied by opposing families. In search of new opportunities, many members of Clan MacDowall began a long-term migration by sailing across the North Channel to the six counties comprising Ulster in Northern Ireland. A hundred years later, MacDowalls in Ulster who often spelled their surname as McDowell, would brave the perilous ocean crossing to seek land and religious freedom in the rapidly growing colonies of America and later to Australia. As a result, MacDowalls played an important part in the history of early America, settling in places like Virginia, North Carolina and Pennsylvania by the early 1700s.

Clan MacDowall of Galloway has three main family branches based in Wigtownshire, the western part of Galloway - the MacDowalls of



MacDowall

Clan MacDowall of Galloway (cont)

Garthland, M'Dowalls McDoualls of Freugh, and MacDoualls of Logan. Each family branch held lands and castles in very close proximity to each other in the Rhins, west of Luce Bay. All three branches of Clan MacDowall also claim common ancestry to the medieval descendants of Prince Fergus. However, the earliest available records showing separate family baronies for the Freugh and Logan branches do not appear until 1445.

The Macdowalls of Garthland and their branches

The Macdowalls of Garthland held their clan seat at Garthland Castle near present day Garthland Mains for 400 years. Their lands were to the north of the M'Dowalls (McDoualls) of Freugh. The original spelling of Garthland was "Gairachloyne" but it originally began as "Caerlachlan" which translates to "Fort of the Norse." Over the years, the Macdowalls of Garthland would fight alongside their Freugh and Logan counterparts in the important battles of the day like the Battle of Homildon Hill (1402), Battle of Flodden (1513) and Battle of Pinkie (1547).

Though Garthland Castle stood for more than six centuries from 1211 to 1848, it was lost to Robert the Bruce in the First War of Scottish Independence and not returned to a MacDowall until 1413. The chiefs of the clan held it until the land was sold in 1811 to help cover the cost of a bank failure. Around 1847, the remnant of the tower that rose fifty feet high was pulled down. Today all that remains of Garthland Castle is a datestone inserted into a stone cairn alongside an active farm property that once supplied the castle.

The senior branch of the Macdowalls of Garthland is the Macdougals of Makerstoun in southeastern Scotland. The Makerstoun estate, now privately owned, is located on the north bank of the Tweed River within ten miles (16 km.) of the Scottish border. For more than five centuries this was the seat of the Macdougals or Makdougals of Makerstoun, after Sir Fergus MacDowyll of Garthland inherited these Makerstoun lands from his Fraser mother. In 1361 he relocated 115 miles east to Makerstoun in the



Clan MacDowall of Galloway (cont)



Barr Castle

borderlands where he established the new Makerstoun branch of the Garthland family. Because this area lay on the main north-south invasion route used by both Scots and English, the lands and buildings were often destroyed by passing armies. The current Makerstoun House, rebuilt in 1974 after a fire, is a reproduction of an earlier house designed by William Adam in the 18th century. The Macdougals of Makerstoun sold the property in 1921 but the private estate is owned and maintained by Lord Biddulph. Makerstoun currently functions as: an event space; a venue for pheasant shooting; and a large fishing site on the Tweed River. The website for this estate is <http://www.makerstoun.com/>

Another important site for the Macdowalls of Garthland was Castle Semple, originally called Castleton Castle when it was constructed sometime in the 15th century. By the 1700's

Castleton Castle was in ruins when the estate was sold to Colonel William Macdowall of Garthland by Hugh Sempill, 12th Lord of Sempill, a descendant of John Sempill, 1st Lord of Sempill, who had built the castle. William Macdowall, a younger son of the Garthland family, purchased the estate after his return to Scotland following many years in the Caribbean. In 1735 William replaced the ruined castle with a newer style of mansion and renamed it Castlesemple House. By the time that he took up residence at Castlesemple, William MacDowall was the wealthiest commoner in Scotland due to his sugar business in the West Indies. The manor house burned in 1924, but the property and ruins from Castle Semple located at Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire, are now a part of the Murshiel Regional Park in Lochwinnoch Parish.

Located not far from Castle Semple is Barr Castle, currently the seat of the Chief of Clan MacDowall. Overlooking Barr Loch, Barr Castle was built in 1525 by the Glen family who shared property boundaries with the Semples, but the two families were not on friendly terms. After the property changed hands a few times, the Macdowalls of Garthland purchased the property in 1780 from the Hamilton family. Today, the vacant lone tower house of Barr Castle is owned by the present-day chief of Clan MacDowall, Fergus Day Hort Macdowall of Garthland, who lives in British Columbia, Canada.

McDoualls of Freugh

According to The MacDowalls book, the name Freugh, pronounced "frooh," possibly comes from the word "freuch" or "frewch" meaning dry, possibly in relation to corn (oats, barley or wheat – not maize)



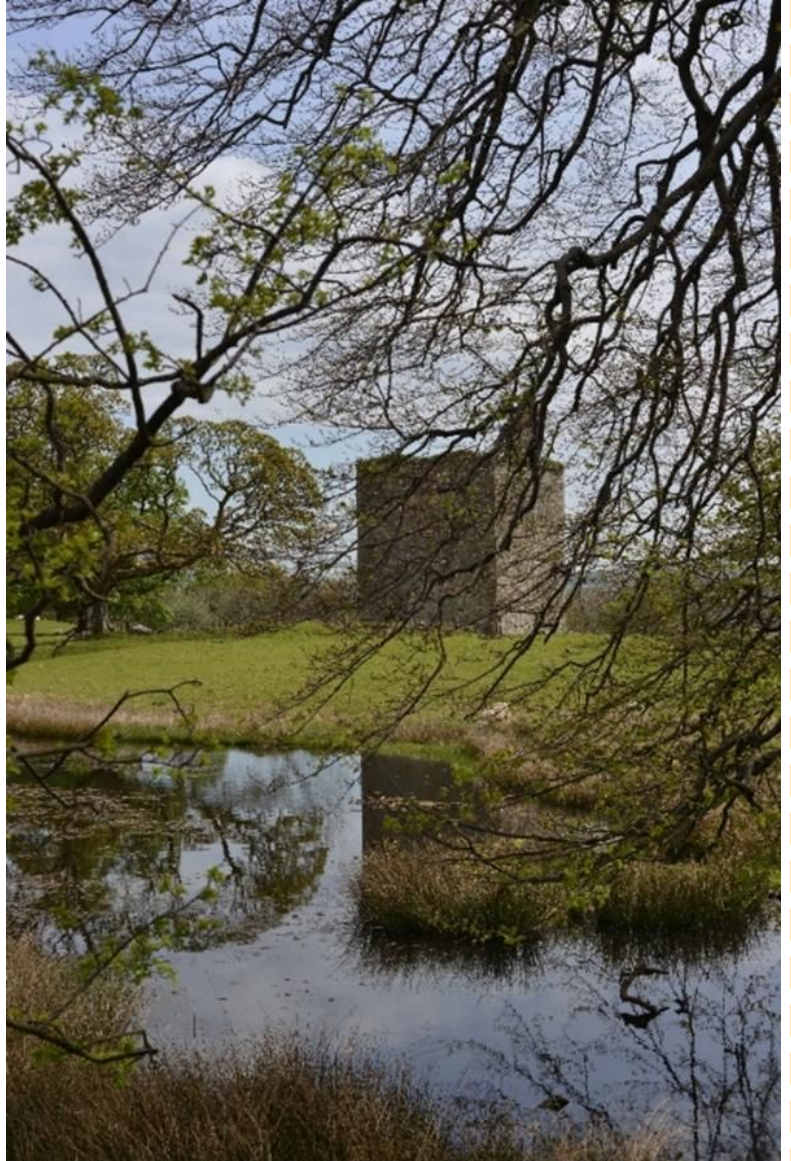
MacDougall

Clan MacDowall of Galloway (cont)

grown in the area. The McDouall's of Freugh, like Logan and Garthland, are linked to the Ancient House of Galloway, in their case as descendants of Alan, the last Lord of Galloway, who died in 1234. Alan was a nephew of Duegald and a great grandson of Prince Fergus. Alan possibly occupied Cruggleton Castle, thought to be a stronghold of the Lords of Galloway in the Machars (across Luce Bay from the Rhins). Today, its ruin sits on a coastal promontory 1.5 miles (2.4 km.) south of Garlieston.

The McDouall of Freugh lands were to the north of the MacDoualls of Logan. Castle Freugh, a tower house also known as Castle M'Dowall and Castle MacDougall, once stood just west of Sandhead Village near Luce Bay in Stoneykirk Parish, although there are no physical remnants besides earthworks. There is, however, a record as early as 1445 of the M'Dowalls (McDoualls) of Freugh owning the property, and perhaps they held it earlier. The ruined tower apparently stood until the early 1800's.

The McDouall fortalice and nearby Balgreggan House, owned by John McDouall of Freugh was the site of much turmoil in the troubled years of the Killing Times in the 1680s. Both Castle Freugh and Balgreggan House had been burned by Oliver Cromwell's forces in 1654 as a result of John McDouall's support for King Charles. During this time, he was captured and taken to England but escaped. After the 1660 Restoration of Charles II, the lands now controlled by John's grandson, Patrick McDouall, were lost after he fought and was captured as a Covenanter in the Battle of Bothwell Bridge (1679). However, they were recovered later around 1691. A later version of Balgreggan House was rebuilt in 1730 but burned down in 1966. The estate was bequeathed to John Crichton-Stuart, 2nd Marquis of Bute, after the death of Patrick McDouall-Crichton, 6th Earl of Dumfries in 1803 and the McDouall of Freugh line ended. Today the site near Sandhead is a heavily wooded area surrounded by



Barr Castle on Loch Barr

Clan MacDowall of Galloway (cont)

farms.

In the 19th century many descendants of the McDouall's of Freugh migrated to Australia and New Zealand, where many families of the branch are still located. These McDouall's maintain a website at <https://www.mcdouall.org/> and host a Clan Gathering in Scotland every six years.

MacDoualls of Logan

Like the McDoualls of Freugh and the Macdowalls of Garthland,

the Logan family branch of Clan MacDowall pronounced their MacDouall name as "mock dool," a replication of its original sound in the Gaelic language. Logan is located south of the Garthland and Freugh lands, down the tip of the Rhins. The MacDouall's of Logan were granted their land by King John Balliol in 1295 and soon after built their Castle Balzieland stronghold. Unfortunately, the original tower house burned in a fire around 1500 taking with it many family documents. In the early 1800's a walled garden was built within its ruins.

Logan House, built in 1702, is located on a sprawling privately-owned estate adjacent to the popular Logan Botanic Garden, which is open to the public from March to November. Because of the North Atlantic Drift, the microclimate around Logan is very mild, which allows for growing plants that would not survive elsewhere in Scotland. A September 2023 article in Country Life magazine with photos describes this 1637-acre estate. The Logan Botanic Garden, and the adjacent Logan House to the north, occupy part of the ancestral estate owned by the MacDoualls of Logan for nearly 700 years. The Logan Botanic Garden, now run by Royal Edinburgh Botanic, was founded in 1869, but the MacDoualls' love of gardening went back well before that time. The remaining wall of the old Balzieland Castle stands at the site of the original castle gardens. The last of the MacDoualls of Logan line passed on in 1947 when Kenneth and Douglas MacDouall died. As a result, the estate was put up for sale and the botanic garden was donated to Scotland in the late 1960's. A nearby tower house, built by the MacDoualls of Logan in 1600 that still stands today is Auchness Castle. The original structure was heavily altered and is currently a private residence. The word Auchness is derived from the Norse and Gaelic words translating to "the field at the point."



Balgrogan House rebuilt in 1700s



MacDowall

Clan MacDowall of Galloway (cont)



Clan MacDowall Today

After the Scottish Reformation, there is evidence of families leaving Scotland as early as the late 1500's for County Antrim, Ireland as political exiles. Many were Covenanters escaping turmoil in Scotland. But the stay in Ulster was relatively short-lived for many. One of the first Macdowalls migrating to colonial America, who is known to have Garthland ancestry, was Ephraim McDowell who set sail for the colonies in America with some of his children

and grandchildren in 1729. Other MacDowalls populated places like Virginia, the Carolinas, and Pennsylvania in colonial America. Many became successful in the military, politics and medicine. To this day, many counties, parks and other place names share the McDowell name due to the early influx of Clan MacDowall descendants in America.

Today, MacDowalls of many spellings can be found across the globe, but as we know, most originate from a tiny corner of southwest Scotland. Throughout North America, and as far off as Australia and New Zealand, there are street signs, parks and other places of interest bearing the MacDowall name spellings, all evidence of the MacDowall diaspora from Galloway. Our history books contain military figures like Civil War General Irvin McDowell, famous composers like Edward McDowell and authors like Sir Conan Doyle, who are all descendants of the MacDowall family name. That is impressive, considering how small the clan is relative to other prominent clans within Scotland. But, it also points to the influential nature of people with Scottish and Ulster Scots heritage. If you find yourself in Galloway, consider visiting this rural locale called the Rhins, a place the MacDowalls long called home.

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