

The Tartan



CLAN MacDOUGALL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

VOLUME I—No. 2

March, 1966

The Tartan

*Here's to it!
The fighting sheen of it,
The yellow, the green of it,
The white, the blue of it,
The swing, the hue of it,
The dark, the red of it,
Every thread of it!*

*The fair have sighed for it,
The brave have died for it,
Foemen sought for it,
Heroes fought for it,
Honour the name of it,
Drink to the fame of it—
The Tartan!*

—MURDOCH MACLEAN

The tartan, so the dictionary says, is a plaid woollen cloth.

And so it is. A woollen cloth into which the Scots' whole history is woven in vibrant colors. Romance clings to it and songs are written about it. Oaths were taken on it and at one time, for 76 years, the wearing of it was banned by the English in an attempt to tame the proud chieftains and break up the clans.

In early times a man's tartan, a rectangle of warm wool traditionally 3 feet wide by 5 feet long, served as his dress and shawl. If afforded him protective coloring in skirmishes where the pattern of the soft-hued vegetable dyes blended into the terrain; and at night he used it for his blanket. His tartan was truly a matter of life or death.

As certain setts, or patterns, were adopted within the different districts, of colors produced by dyes from local plants, the man linked himself proudly with his own tartan. The wearing of it was his birthright.

District tartans, as early patterns are called, often served as clan tartans because the people as a rule were members of the same clan. But by adding a color, or slightly varying the arrangement, branches of a clan retained their identity and by the similarity of design maintained their kinship with the clan.

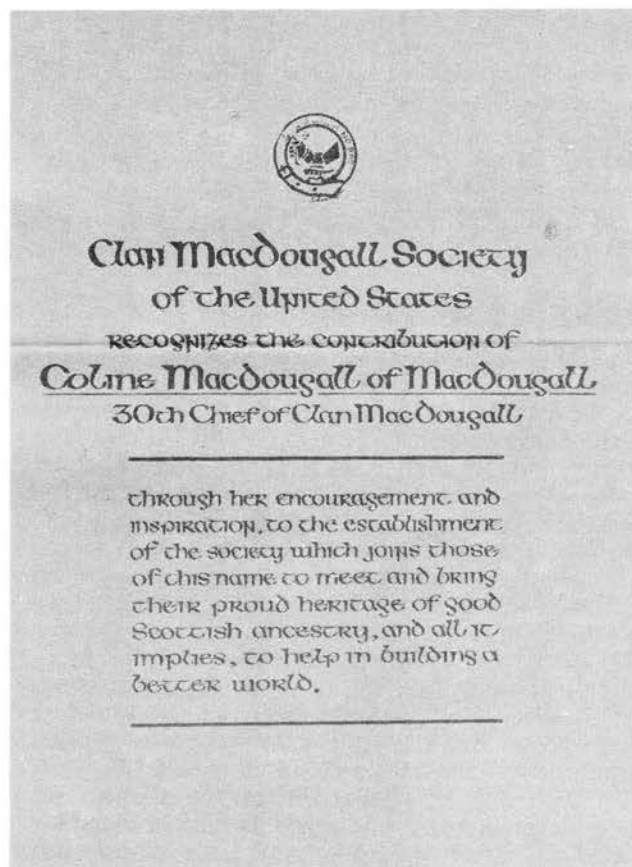
Thus the tartan of our forebears entitles a MacDougall to wear either the ancient colors of soft

green, an apricot-toned red, and white or to wear the modern tartan following the same sett but with brighter, deeper colored dyes. The red is flaming, and predominates; there is a pinkish stripe; and it's all set off by green as dark as wet moss.

No tartan is more beautiful than MacDougall. No tartan has been more proudly worn.

It may be purchased in this country now, at several of the Scotch shops, or may be ordered without much difficulty from Scotland. The story of the tartan kilt and of Scottish dress from ancient times to its correct and practical use today will appear in a later issue.

Be it the MacDougall, or almost any plaid, there is no thrill greater than the sight of a tartan dressed Scot marching to the music of a piper band.



Hand-lettered scroll sent in grateful appreciation by Clan MacDougall Society of the United States.

Our Chief Writes

Dear Clansmen and Clanswomen:

Congratulations on reaching such a large membership. It is a wonderful achievement.

The WorldPipe Band Contest is being held in Inverness on June 25th. I have received a cordial invitation from the organizers who hope I and as many MacDougalls as possible will attend. The last time it was held at Inverness various clans had clan tents and it was very successful. The MacDougalls and the Chisholms shared a tent and I proposed to do the same this time, each clan having half the tent and decorating their own side with their tartan, clan badge, etc., and there the clansmen can meet. We do not expect to have large numbers visiting our tent as Inverness is not MacDougall country, but last time we felt it was well worth-while and we want to be represented with the many clans who take part. There will not unfortunately be highland games. There will be pipe bands only, but well worth seeing and hearing and it would be wonderful if any members of the Clan MacDougall Society of the United States who are in this country at the time could come to Inverness and support us.

Duncuie Castle repairs have been completed to the wall at the entrance where the lintel over the door gave way and it is now safe. Unfortunately we have had to close the castle to the public due to a bad deterioration in the condition of the big central keep (tower) where stones are falling from the Southwest corner and we feel are a danger to anyone passing near. We hope to have this at least rendered safe but were unable to have the work put in hand during the winter as no one will work in such an exposed position in bad weather. We do not yet know how long the job will take until scaffolding is erected, nor is it possible to assess the extent of the damage, but we are doing our best. I could wish, having stood up since Circa 1100 A.D., the castle could have waited a bit longer before starting to fall down. Perhaps it waited till we had an architect in the family!

I should like to say what pleasure the numerous Christmas cards we received gave us. Christmas seems a long way off but the warm feeling remains.

CHE. MacDougall of MacDougall

Speaking of Tents

The MacDougall tent set up at MacRea Meadows for the Highland Games at Linville, North Carolina, is a gaily striped one with a sign reading "Clan MacDougall" and the beautiful MacDougall banner flying in front. This is the banner which the Chief sent last year from Scotland to us for the occasion.

Frankly, last year we did not know about decorating the tent with our tartan and clan badge, as mentioned in Madame MacDougall's letter, and we are taking some decorators' notes.

Like Inverness, North Carolina is not "MacDougall country" so we are very happy to have had as many MacDougalls as visited the tent last year, and we hope to have many more this year. We wish our Chief could be among them.

With its roll up sides, the tent makes a fine gathering place from which MacDougalls and their friends can watch the games and get to know each other better. Last year no one had thought of seats in the tent, which are really necessary for a

long day there. So the impromptu use of boxes and baggage racks, which had a way of slowly collapsing under MacDougalls, will be remedied.

There will be a bit of Scotch "dew" to warm the cockles, and we suggest bringing along lunch because it's a long way to go from MacRae Meadows back to your hotel for a quick snack.

We hope some of our members will have found their way to the MacDougall tent at Inverness, and we want to hear from those who do.

In our next issue we will also tell you about the ones who visit the MacDougall tent at MacRae Meadows where we wish we could see all of you. In good old southern Gaelic: "Come on, youall!"



A VERY EARLY MACDOUGALL CHIEF

We think this chief dates back to the 14th or 15th century. Around 1700 London Ackerman & Co. reproduced it in a book of Scottish Chiefs printed for her majesty, queen at that time.

R. R. Mclan, pinxit

L. Dickinson, Lith.

MAC DUGAL

London Ackerman & Company

96 Strand

C. FRAF, Lith. To Her Majesty

Ackerman

(The above appeared on the original copy from which this photograph was made, but it did not show up clearly on this photo copy.)



Portrait of General Alexander MacDougall. Copy by Ed Brown, owned by His Honor, MacDougall Hawkes. Presented to the Sons of the American Revolution February 1911.

Alexander MacDougall, considered to be our most illustrious American clansman, was born in the parish of Kildalton, Isle of Islay (Hebrides), Scotland in 1732. He came with his father, Ronald, to the colony of New York in 1738.

In the early life he followed the seas and in the war of 1756 with the French, he commanded the vessels of war, *Tiger* and *Burrington*, sailing under letters of marque out of New York. Subsequently, a successful merchant of that city, he devoted himself ardently to the cause of the colonies.

He came into prominence in 1769 as author of a broadside addressed "*To the Betrayed Inhabitants of the City and Colony of New York*" issued December 16, which violently attacked the General Assembly. The broadside was declared libelous, and he was arrested February 8, 1770 on the testimony of the printer. Because of the death of the principal witness, the case against him was never tried but he was committed for contempt when he refused to deny the authorship and was released in March, 1771. This action made him the first person arrested by the British authorities.

He was one of the most active members of the "*Sons of Liberty*" and was one of the most prominent of the radical leaders as an accelerator of public opinion during 1774-75 in the New York Committee of Fifty One and in the first and second Provincial Congress. He presided over the famous mass meeting in the "*Fields*" July 6, 1774. The next year he was appointed colonel of the first New York regiment and was later Continental brigadier-general (1776) and major general (1777).

In October, 1776 he commanded the division of the Army at Chatterton Hills, Westchester, where he twice repulsed the British Hessians. He participated in the battles of White Plains and Germantown, but rendered his most important military service in the Highlands of Hudson. Washington wrote him in 1778: "*The vast importance of it (con-*

trol of the Hudson) has determined me to confide it, in you." On the discovery of Arnold's treason, Washington placed MacDougall in command of West Point.

In the fall of 1777 it was reported Alexander, with one thousand New Yorkers, was with Washington on the outskirts of Philadelphia. This meant that he spent that terrible winter at Valley Forge.

There is no doubt, as history tells us, that Alexander MacDougall played a most important part as a military leader in the war for American independence and an interesting picture is given us at the end of the war by Bruce Lancaster in his book "*From Lexington to Liberty*". By December 4, 1783 it was all over. Sir Guy Carleton's warships and transports lay in the lower harbor, ready to clear New York for the last time. Officers of many ranks gathered at noon in the main room of Fraunces Tavern, dressed in their best. Slowly the big room to which they had been invited filled up. Baron Von Stuben was there and Alex MacDougall. Vast Henry Knox took up an ample corner—280 pounds—along with Washington's 220. The Commander in Chief had often seen his subordinates at a loss for words, but never before had they seen him so utterly adrift. Finally he filled his wine glass, shakily, and gestured to them. One by one the glasses were brimmed. Tallmadge, MacDougall, Jackson and others held their glasses staring woodenly at them. Someone raised his hand in warning. The Commander in Chief was speaking in a tight, throttled voice they had never heard before. The words came out with difficulty and he was blinking with each syllable. "*With a heartfelt of love and gratitude I now take leave of you.*" The words came out slowly and carefully. "*I most devotedly wish that your later days may be as prosperous and happy as your former ones have been glorious and honorable.*"

Alexander returned to command West Point on several occasions during 1779, 80, 81 and 82. In 1780 and 1781 he was a member of Congress and in 1781 he was elected by that body Minister of Marine but declined the position for renewed active service in the field.

Our brilliant clansman was certainly a man of strong will and definite opinions because we find that in 1782 a quarrel with General Heath led to his arrest and court martial for insubordination. However he apparently had the admiration and respect of his fellow officers as in the winter of 1782-1783 he headed the delegation sent by them to confer with the Continental Congress upon questions of pay. He represented New York in the Continental Congress, 1781-82 and 1784-85, and served as a state senator, 1783-86.

He was the first president of the Bank of New York. An indication of the increasingly conservative attitude of his later years was his service as president of the New York State Society of the Cincinnati from its organization until his death.

Alexander MacDougall married in 1751, during a visit which he made to Islay, Ann Langville, daughter of Steven MacDougall, and returned with her in the same year to the colony of New York. He had three children. His two sons died unmarried, John in the Canada Expedition in 1775 and

Ronald Steven from the results of injuries received in the field in 1776. His daughter Elizabeth married John Lawrence, the Judge Advocate-General of the Revolution, who officiated at the trial of Major Andre, was a United States senator, and subsequently the first United States Judge for the district of New York. Alexander survived his first wife and in 1767 he was married to Hannah Bostwick, who survived him.

He died in New York City June 8, 1786 and was described by George Washington "*as a brave soldier and distinguished patriot*". He is buried in the family vault of the MacDougall, Lawrence and Hawk's families in the Presbyterian Church, 5th Ave. and 12th St., New York City. Tablets have been erected to General MacDougall's memory in the church mentioned above and in the chapel of the U. S. Military Academy at West Point. Mac Dougall Street in New York City, running from Washington Square to Spring Street, was named in his honour.

Report from our President

It is very gratifying to me to be able to report a most satisfactory growth in the membership of our Society. Since our first annual meeting last July, our membership has increased from 127 members to 175 members. There are MacDougalls on our roster from Maine, Washington, California, and Florida, so I believe it could be said that our membership extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the Gulf to Canada. We have also crossed the border, and now have five Canadian members.

You might be interested in knowing how the Organizing Committee went about finding MacDougalls willing and interested in becoming members of our Society. The initial mailing list was made up of MacDougalls whose names appeared on the roster of the American Bar Association, The American Medical Association, civic clubs, and various lists and indexes of business and social organizations. City directories were screened and various Scottish societies were asked to give us the addresses of MacDougalls on their membership lists.

The Highlander Magazine, published in Oklahoma City, carried an article concerning our Clan MacDougall Society, and we have several members who sent in their applications after reading this article. I would like to take this means of thanking Mr. Cliff H. MacLean Hansen publisher of the Highlander, for his assistance.

Letters were written to Scottish Imports, Ltd., 374 Gary Street, San Francisco, California, and to Scottish Products, Inc., 24 E. 60th St., New York City, asking that they send us the names and addresses of MacDougalls on their mailing lists. They did this very willingly, and we gained several members with the help of these firms. Both Scottish Imports and Scottish Products carry a large stock of Scottish merchandise, including kilts and MacDougall tartan by the yard. Both firms have catalogs and price lists that they will gladly send you upon request.

A follow-up letter was sent to the original mailing list, and this brought in a good many membership application forms. Since this letter was mailed out, however, our efforts to obtain new members has been confined to encouraging our members to send in names and addresses of their relatives or other MacDougalls of their acquaintance. This has brought about the best results, and we do believe we will build a stronger membership by encouraging our own mem-

bers to assist in finding new and enthusiastic members.

This will be a good time to thank our many members who have written such encouraging letters, and please accept my thanks for sending me the names and addresses of prospective members.

I would like to thank here our Chief and her husband in behalf of all our members for their Christmas cards and also to thank Miss Hope MacDougall for her kindness in inviting our members to visit Dunollie Castle. She also has a supply of our membership forms and will ask visiting American MacDougalls to join our Society.

It has been a year ago this month that our organizational work began, and it will soon be time to send our notices of annual contributions. These notices will be sent to the membership, and the contributions will become due on the anniversary of each membership.

Our Second Annual Meeting will be held during the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games at Linville, North Carolina. We have tentatively set the hour for the meeting at ten o'clock Saturday morning, July 9, at the Eseeola Lodge in Linville.

JOHN W. McDOUGALL

BACKGROUND BITS

Donald McDougal, Sr., our first vice president, was born October 8, 1904; son of James B. and Laura Gray McDougal. He graduated from Chicago Latin School in 1922 and then entered the University of Wisconsin. In 1929 he married Marjorie Emerson and they have three sons and one daughter.

Mr. McDougal for thirty-one years was with the Northern Trust Company of Chicago and at his retirement in 1956 was second vice president. He held membership in the Union League Club of Chicago, Sigma Phi Society, Illinois St. Andrew Society, and the Episcopal Church. "He founded the McDougal Travel Service of Hinsdale, Illinois in 1956 and was President through 1959.

In 1953-54 Donald McDougal wrote and distributed a book entitled "McDougal Genealogy" which covered the known descendents of Robert McDougal of western Scotland (1747-1954).

In 1959 he visited our Chief at Dunollie and Barcaldine and in 1962 the Chief and her husband spent several days with Mr. McDougal and his wife in their present home in Madison, Wisconsin, on their first visit to the United States.

"Who's Who"

It is interesting to note that the only two ladies by our names included in the 1965 issue of "*Who's Who in American Woman*" are Mrs. Katherine B. McDougal, wife of our third vice president who is honored for her outstanding charitable and civic work in Chicago, and Mrs. Mary O. McDougall, wife of our second vice president, who is listed for her success as a leading American travel agent.



The Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

The eleventh annual Gathering of the Clans will be held at Linville, North Carolina on July 9th and 10th. The event has been often referred to as the "American Braemar".

The site of the games is at MacRae Meadows, high on the slopes of Grandfather Mountain. The countryside and weather closely resemble many parts of highland Scotland.

The founders of the games were Mrs. Agnes MacRae Morton, who is still most active in the endeavor, and Donald F. MacDonald, a native of North Carolina and a direct descendant of the Scottish heroine Flora MacDonald. Donald and his wife Mairi were married in the wee kirk at Linville during the games. She is a native of Scotland and they now live near Glasgow. Donald is a free lance writer and has been writing Clan articles for the "Weekly Scotsman."

The games are held on Saturday and Sunday and the program closely follows those of the similar events in Scotland and includes contests in Highland dancing, piping and amateur drumming, track and field events, which include Highland wrestling, the Cabar Toss, Tossing the Sheaf, and a Tug o War. The contestants in the dancing and piping come from many states and Canada and the judges are sometimes brought from Scotland.

Friday night there is a Ceilidh Night where guests are entertained with outstanding singers of Scottish ballads, dancing, and musicians. Saturday is the night of a gala Tartan Ball with many of the guests in their formal kilt. Sunday a religious service is held at the Meadows with an outstanding sermon and usually a speaker of national or international recognition.

The site of the games is very impressive with the flags of the various clans flying in front of their tents and a Parade of the Clans will stir the blood of any Scot. Grandfather Mountain makes a most impressive backdrop for the colorful event. Scot-

tish importers set up shops for those who want to buy tartans, balmorals, etc.

The first annual meeting of our society was held during the games on Saturday July 10, 1965. A MacDougall tent was set up for our headquarters and about thirty clansmen attended. A cocktail party at the Eseeola Lodge for attending Society members added to the gaiety of the gathering.

The second annual meeting of our Clan Society will be held at the Eseeola Lodge in Linville, Saturday morning July 9 at 10 A.M.

The Eseeola Lodge is a very attractive hotel with one of the finest golf courses in the South. Make reservations early and you will have a wonderful experience and a grand time. There are many other attractive hotels and motels in the Linville area.

A BUGLER

*A Bugler named Dougal MacDougall
Found ingenious ways to be frugal
He learned how to sneeze
In various keys
Thus saving the price of a bugle.
Ogden Nash in
"That Face is Familiar"*

Our Society Treasurer advises that the annual contributions for the year fall due on the anniversary of the date on which the member made his first year contribution. (\$5.00 for a family, \$3.00 for individuals.)

Our Thanks

We wish to acknowledge and thank Mr. Gilbert McDougall of Scaneateles, New York, and Mr. Allan MacDougall of New York City for their assistance in preparing the article on Alexander MacDougall and Mrs. Frank C. Bryant Ashville, N. C., for the picture and data on the early MacDougall chief.

Application for Membership

MR. JOHN W. MCDUGALL
CLAN MACDOUGALL SOCIETY
P. O. Box 7767
Nashville, Tennessee 37209

Please enter my name for membership in the Society, for which I attach my check for the annual dues:

Name: _____
(PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

Annual Contributions:

\$3.00 for an individual membership

\$5.00 for a family membership (wife,
husband and children under 18)

NOTE: If your name is not MacDougall (in any of its spellings) please indicate how you are connected by birth or marriage with an individual of that name.

Clan MacDougall Society
of the United States

P. O. BOX 7767, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37209