

The Tartan



CLAN MacDOUGALL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

VOL. I—No. 6

SPRING 1968



Ancient Keep of Dunollie Castle

Dunollie Safeguarded

In 1967 our Chief placed Dunollie and some 162 acres of ground around the castle under a protective covenant with the National Trust for Scotland.

This, as Madam McDougall explains, is a voluntary move to preserve it as a beauty spot while still retaining its use for herself and her heirs. The land then cannot be developed or changed in character without the Trust's approval.

To MacDougalls everywhere the preservation of this, the original seat of the MacDougalls, Lords of Lorn, means more than simply the creation of a pretty park. It means that future generations of MacDougalls may come here to stand on hallowed ground.

On the beautiful tree covered stretch of coastline the castle cliff rises to 100 feet and is surrounded on three sides by the sea. No more commanding a position for a fortress ever existed, and it must have looked much like this when the first recorded Dunollaigh was built here before the year 685 A.D. It was destroyed and rebuilt on the same headland, and destroyed and rebuilt again. The

present castle of Dunollie was probably built during the 12th century.

And it was here to this rocky promontory John Macdougall, often called Ian Ciar, the 22nd Chief, brought his bride, Mary MacDonald of Sleat. And here in 1715 began her long and courageous defense of the castle while her husband was off fighting for the Jacobite cause.

On a bleak November day Ian Ciar penned a letter to his wife which said in part: "I am hopeful you have not surrendered the house, you are desired to keep it as long as possible and I hope to God in a few days you will hear a good account of this army . . . keep in the house no less than twelve men and for Gods sake keep good courage . . . Once more I crave your stoutness in keeping the house . . .".

Mary's stoutness and her hardships endured for the next few years. Defend the castle she did, and lost it only when due to the failure of the rising, MacDougall estates were forfeit and Ian Ciar had to go in hiding in France and Ireland for 12 years.

It was not until 1745 that MacDougall lands were restored to them.

By then Dunollie Castle which had been severely damaged during the troubled times was in

Manor House of Dunollie



such bad condition that Alexander MacDougall, the son of Ian Ciar, decided to build a new house instead of repairing the castle. Stones from the castle, being handy building material, were used. Thus the proud castle of Dunollie was further demolished; and the demolition was continued when Admiral Sir John MacDougall of MacDougall, R.N., added to the dwelling at a later date.

This dwelling, a lovely and gracious manor house standing just behind the castle ruins, is now the home of our Chief and her architect husband who have recently done some necessary renovation—this time without disturbing a stone of the ancient keep, which is all that now remains of the castle.

Unlike Culzean Castle and others which are in an excellent state of preservation, the keep and Dunollie grounds will not presently be open to the public. There will be no revenue from admission charges nor is any cost of upkeep to be met from the Trust's general funds. However, Dunollie is protected for all time against being turned into a modern subdivision or used for a factory site.

From the keep, the view out to sea that Mary anxiously gazed upon, that Tula Aman victoriously surveyed after burning the first Dunollaigh in 685 A.D., and that Selbach saw for the last time when Dun-aille was captured by Angus MacFergus, King of the Gaels, from whom are directly descended the Chiefs of Clan MacDougall—that beautiful or awesome view seaward will always be there for MacDougalls and others to enjoy.

And the ghosts of the castle and of the old keep will be undisturbed in this setting of natural beauty bequeathed to posterity by a public spirited landlord, Madam MacDougall of MacDougall.



Clan MacDougall in 1967 Parade of the Tartan.



Dignitaries Are Presented at 1967 Tartan Ball

Fourth Annual Meeting of Clan MacDougall

Again this year the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games will form the backdrop for our Clan MacDougall Society meeting, and on July 13th and 14th we will be on MacRea Meadow watching the piping, drumming, dancing, caber tossing, Highland wrestling, tossing the sheaf, working of Scottish sheep dogs, archery, and joining in the singing and beautiful open-air church service.

We will again be greeting Agnes MacRea Morton, founder of the Games, and Nestor MacDonald, commanding figure and Games' president.

Again Clan MacDougall will have its tent on the meadow where all MacDougalls and friends are welcome. And again the Clan will join the thrilling Parade of the Tartans.

Clan MacDougall Society will present a trophy this year for the first time, to be a permanent trophy for the winner of the Drumming.

Again in the morning, before the Games, Clan MacDougall members will have their annual meeting at Tanglewood Cottage at Eseeola Lodge. And again in the late afternoon MacDougalls will join for a cocktail party at the Lodge.

Again there will be a Ceilidh, again a picnic, and again the brilliant Tartan Ball.

To those lucky enough to have become familiar with the pattern, each event is traditional and beloved. Each is something we want to share. Again we hope as we always do that no well-known face will be absent from our circle next July; and again we hope to see many, many new MacDougall faces in our midst.

The Pipes of MacDougall

In all the MacDougall history, legend and background *The Tartan* has been gleaning, it is surprising that only recently the musician MacDougall forebears have come to light.

The story of the MacDougal pipers needs some piecing together but it is fascinating. It began in the 13th century and only ended in the year 1911 when Gavin MacDougall died without passing on his art of piping or craftsmanship of bagpipe making.

This fine craftsmanship of making pipes, handed down from generation to generation, gained the MacDougalls as much fame it seems as the gold medals they won for their playing. No less an authority than Alexander MacAulay writing in the "Piping Times" of January, 1964, said: "The MacDougalls and Stradavarius lived in different worlds if not separated by time, yet both had this in common; firstly they were perfectionists in the art of music, and secondly they were experts in the art of woodturning. If there is such a thing as the perfect musical instrument then the MacDougalls and Stradavarius by combining the two arts came close in their time to achieve that aim."

Without any real knowledge of the wonderful instrument itself, *The Tartan* still plans future telling of the exciting exploits of the famous pipers who bore the name MacDougall and, although over the years they scattered widely, who evidently came originally from Lorn.



Nester J. MacDonald and Agnes MacRea Morton
Personify the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

Important Manuscript

Of very real interest to MacDougalls is a book which Dr. Howard Simpson, one of Scotland's foremost historians, has just written. It is devoted to Dunollie Castle and the history of Clan MacDougall.

Madam Coline MacDougall has read the manuscript and is enthusiastic. She comments: "I feel we are so lucky in having our history written by a real historian who knows his job and is a recognized authority on Scottish castles—and is also a good writer . . . I do feel where Scottish history is concerned one wants a writer who depends on research to get his history as authentic as possible . . . There has been a lot of writing about historical Scotland based on romantic Victorian writers who listened to any tale and recorded it as fact."

As of this moment, so far as we know, this manuscript is in the hands of the publisher's reader, where two other new books of Dr. Simpson's are about to come out.

The problem is, if there actually is a problem, that publishers must concern themselves with distribution of a book. How wide a sale would even the best written and most fascinating history of Clan MacDougall have to anyone but MacDougalls?

Should the publisher decide that the audience seems too limited, we wonder if MacDougalls would be willing to underwrite in some measure the cost of printing a book so vital to MacDougalls. If for instance each member of the Clan MacDougall Society of the U. S. would agree to buy two copies—one a valued addition to his own book shelf, and one a gift to friend or perhaps library, this would certainly give courage to a hesitant publisher.

Clansman General McDougall

Doubtless all of our Clan members have read in the newspapers and in the February 23rd issue of *Life Magazine* a story about how The McDougall Papers—47 of Washington's wartime letters to General McDougall—were saved. This is one of the great finds of the present century, and it is given a fascinating presentation by *Life Magazine*.

We wonder how many remember reading the story about this same gentleman, General Alexander McDougall, in the 1966 spring issue of *The Tartan*.

Report from OUR PRESIDENT

Of first importance in my report is to acknowledge, through "The Tartan", our thanks to our Chief and Honorary President, Madam MacDougall of MacDougall, for the Christmas greetings she penned to all two hundred fifty members of our Society. I am sure that I am expressing the appreciation and thanks of each and every member.

I have had a strong desire to meet and know as many of our members as possible. I have also thought that it would be fine if regional meetings could be initiated where our members could meet and know other MacDougalls in the various sections of our country.

On our return home from a vacation trip via New York City, my brother and I invited seven of our clansmen from the New York area, whom I had corresponded with recently, to a luncheon meeting at the Plaza Hotel. Allan MacDougall, Howard McDougall, Hugh McDougall, John MacDougall, and Lester McDowell, all from New York, and Myres McDougall of Hartford, Connecticut and John McDougall from Philadelphia attended the meeting.

They're as fine a group of men as I have met in many a day, and it was most gratifying to find how enthusiastic they were in the affairs of our Society. They were not hesitant in expressing their pleasure in meeting and knowing each other, and indicated a real interest in having similar meetings periodically for our clansmen in the New York area. Each of us in turn told something of our ancestral background, our families, and our business connections. I asked for suggestions that would increase the interest of our members and received some excellent suggestions. If I can find a way, I hope to initiate similar meetings for our members in other sections of our country.

Gilbert McDougall of Skaneateles, New York, has written to give me what I think is a wonderful idea. Members of our society on vacation this summer will be visiting many miles from their homes. If they would study the roster of our membership and in passing through a town or city where we have members would take a few minutes to make a friendly telephone call, it could create a new friendship for two or more MacDougalls and add to the pleasure of their trip. "The Tartan" would welcome an opportunity to report such contacts between our members. I would like to foster this idea and wonder which member will be the first to try out this suggestion?

The St. Andrews Society of the Middle South held the second annual meeting in Birmingham, Alabama, in November. Our Vice President, A Wylie McDougall of New Orleans, was honored in being elected as a Vice President for Louisiana, and I was elected a Vice President for Tennessee. It was a delightful banquet meeting, with many Scots and their ladies attired in full tartan regalia. Traditionally, the Haggis was piped in, and Reverend David

Henry Pattie stirringly gave Robert Burns' "Toast to the Haggis". There were well over a hundred Scottish Americans at the banquet enjoying a typical Scottish evening.

Last fall, Governor Connally of Texas proclaimed October 22 as "Scots Day in Texas". On this day, The Scottish Society of Texas held its annual Highland Games in Austin. The Right Honorable Herbert Archibald Brechin, C.B.E., Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Scotland, and Lady Brechin, were the guests of honor. The Lord Provost was also guest of honor at "Scottish Night", a Ceilidh held in Dallas, October 20, to which eight hundred guests were invited. Mr. Harry Gordon, President of the Scottish Society of Texas, very kindly invited Mrs. McDougall and me to attend both events. It was a rare privilege to meet and be with Lord and Lady Brechin, and the other distinguished guests. Here again, to see so many Scots gathered together enjoying Scottish affairs was heart warming, and I was very proud to be there representing the Clan MacDougall Society of the United States.

In the fall issue of "The Tartan", I reported that dues will be payable in August of each year, rather than on the anniversary of each membership. I repeat this decision of the Board of Directors for those who may have wondered why they have not been billed for dues. The billing will go out with the announcement of our fourth Annual Membership Meeting which is to be held on Saturday, July 13, again at Linville, North Carolina, during the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.

I urge all members to make an effort to attend our fourth annual meeting. A weekend in the Big Smoky Mountains and meeting MacDougalls from many parts of the country, enjoying the Highland Games together, is a very pleasant and rewarding experience.

JOHN W. McDOUGALL

Postmarked MacDougall

The MacDougalls who received Christmas cards from our Chief can hardly have failed to notice that they were postmarked "Oban", Scotland. We wonder if everyone noticed that the Christmas cards from our President were postmarked "MacDougall", N. Y.

This was a gimmick, to be sure, to send the cards to MacDougall and ask the cooperative postmaster to cancel the stamps and mail them. But it brought the warmest response from the townspeople and from Meg Hauser, a newspaper woman whose column appears in fifteen papers in the East, when they were asked if they could tell us how MacDougal got its name.

They could not, exactly. Their interesting suppositions and their enthusiasm at "discovering" Clan MacDougall Society of the U. S. will be a treat for *Tartan* readers, however, at a later date.

Background Bits

Allan MacDougall, a Director of our Clan Society, was born in New York City June 3, 1894, and graduated from Trinity School of that city in 1910.

His father died when he was 16 years old so, instead of entering Yale, it was necessary for him to go to work. This was interrupted when he was sent to the Mexican border with Squadron A, the Cavalry Unit of the New York National Guard, and then in 1918 he was sent to France as a 1st Lieutenant in the 304th Field Artillery of the Seventh Division.

He served in many of the famous campaigns of World War I and was honorably discharged as a Captain of Field Artillery in May, 1919.

Upon his return to New York, he joined his mother, Alice Foote MacDougall, in a wholesale coffee, tea and grocery specialty business which he and his mother eventually expanded to operate the six well-known Alice Foote MacDougall restaurants.

In 1935 Mr. MacDougall joined the National Distillers Products Corporation and became Vice President in charge of the International Division, responsible for developing the import and export activities of the firm.

After mandatory retirement from National Distillers in 1965, he joined Victor Fichel Company, a division of the Seagram organization, with which he is presently associated.

Allan MacDougall married Rella M. Gammon of Keokuk, Iowa. They live in New York City and also have a summer country home in East Hampton on Long Island. They have two sons, Allan MacDougall, Jr., who lives in Los Angeles and has five children, and Bruce Allen MacDougall, also a Californian, who has two children.

MacDougall Royalty of the Rods

Tom McDougall, better known as "Scoop-shovel Scotty", was seven times King of the Hoboes. So we learn from the July, 1967, issue of the *American Legion Magazine* sent to us by John J. MacDougall of New York City.

King McDougall had a long and exotic career. When he was fourteen he went to sea and it was sixteen years later that he left the ships and took to the freight cars and a life of leisure. The heavily tattooed ex-sailor always carried a shovel with him, and could tap out tunes on it. He could also, if absolutely pushed, shovel coal or snow or whatever needed shoveling that would earn him small change.

MacDougall was King for the last time in 1962 when he was 89 years old. He died in 1965, aged 92.

As the *American Legion Magazine* observed, no dirty, whiskered young faces have replaced the old fashioned hobo. They seem all to have gone to college.

Clan MacDougall Members Meet for Lunch in New York. Left to Right: A. Wylie MacDougall, Allan MacDougall, John S. McDougal, John J. MacDougall, Lester McDowell, Myres S. MacDougall, Howard D. MacDougall, John W. MacDougall, Hugh MacDougall.



Application for Membership

MR. JOHN W. MCDOUGALL
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