

The Tartan



CLAN MacDOUGALL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

Volume 1 - No. 9

FALL 1969



Madam MacDougall of MacDougall and Mr. Leslie Grahme MacDougall at the Tartan Ball

Our Visit To America

by Madam MacDougall of MacDougall

We sailed into New York on a dull hazy day, so did not get a good view of the world famous skyline. Though it was still impressive. The welcome which awaited us was however warm and Mr. and Mrs. Howard MacDougall were there to greet us as we stepped ashore. They had, I am afraid, to start at a very early hour to be there when the SS UNITED STATES docked, and we appreciated their welcome more than we can say.

It was very warm and the air-conditioned room to which they took us was very pleasant. We were joined later in the morning by Captain and Mrs. Lester McDowell who took us to the Metropolitan Museum where we had lunch and spent an enjoyable time looking at some most interesting exhibits. We were then taken on a tour of New York taking in MacDougall Street and MacDougall Alley, Greenwich Village, etc., and we were interested to see New York hippies seemed much like London ones.

We crossed on the ferry to Staten Island and visited the McDowell's charming old house in New Jersey, full of interesting antiques, and dined in an old world inn which had wonderful cheesecake dessert. We felt it was specially kind of the McDowells to give up so much time to us when he was leaving the next day on duty.

Our second day, Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. Howard MacDougall came and fetched us and took us out to Long Island where we spent a very happy day in their lovely home, glad to get away from the heat of the city. We watched a fascinating family of cardinals feeding, the first we had ever seen.

On Monday, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh MacDougall and their son took us to lunch at the United Nations and showed us all over the building which we found most interesting.

We enjoyed our two day drive to Linville with the Howard MacDougalls. Unfortunately the second day we did not see much of the country we were driving through owing to heavy rain and fog. We had to come down off the North Carolina Skyline route as we could see only a few yards ahead.

It was wonderful to be greeted on arrival at Linville by so many friends from our first visit to America and a MacDougall table at dinner that night at the Lodge felt like a family gathering.

Our first two days were spent with Mr. and Mrs. John and Mr. and Mrs. Wylie McDougall in the charming guest house lent by the Nestor MacDonalds. It was beautiful by the lake among the hills, peaceful and sunny. Being visited by friends and having time for real talks, I think we would have happily spent weeks in those idyllic surroundings and with that charming company.

But by Friday night things started to happen with the Nestor MacDonald's cocktail party in their lovely house overlooking the golf course. The haggis was piped in with due ceremony and the Ode to the Haggis given dramatically by the Reverend Dougald Lachlan MacLean.

The wonderful turn out for the Clan Society Meeting Saturday morning was very heart warming. Some of the members had come a very long way, especially Mr. and Mrs. Donald MacDougall who had faced a long and exhausting journey to be with us, an effort which we very much appreciated.

We were delighted to be greeted by Pipe Major Harvey



Madam MacDougall and Mr. MacDougall on the terrace of their lakeside cottage at Linville

Ritch and his Charlotte, N. C., pipe band. I don't think there is any greater thrill in life than marching behind the pipes!

There is no doubt and Mr. John and Wylie McDougall and their wives and the officials of the Society are doing a magnificent job with the Clan Society. Its ideals go far beyond a social society and it provides a background for the generations still to come. It takes the best of the old and joins it with the best of the modern and gives a solid base on which the present generation can build.

We ourselves are grateful to the Society for all the help they have given us in our efforts to preserve Dunollie as the home of the Clan, and the Society's interest makes what is a rather uphill job so very worth while.

As my husband mentioned in his talk to the Society, we have with their help and our own resources re-roofed the 1600 part of the house. The castle has had a good deal of attention to prevent stones falling from the tower, which rendered it unsafe. The dangerous corner has now had the loose stones cemented in and the wall pointed, and we are putting iron grilles in the windows to prevent children falling out, and boys climbing in. My husband has been responsible for improvements inside the house which we look forward to showing members who come to Oban.

And so on to the Games. We had looked forward to them as sure to be very enjoyable but very different from Games in the Highlands. How wrong we were. We felt from the word go completely at home and except for some minor differences we might have been in Scotland. There was the same pleasant, peaceful and in a way dignified atmosphere. Somewhere where one meets friends, watches the events, listens to the pipes and forgets the world and its problems for a few sunlit hours. I doubt if anywhere in Scotland there are games held in a more beautiful setting, and always there was the wonderful sound of pipes among the hills.

The weather was kind. I was told there had been former occasions when it had rained. Perhaps the new waterproof I had brought with me and, after a downpour on Friday, had insisted on carrying around with me, may have done the trick. Whatever the reason, the weather was ideal and not too hot.

The Clan tent presented a gay and happy scene and it was delightful to talk with so many MacDougalls and members of other clans. It all had a real Highland atmosphere. It was especially interesting to meet MacDougalls who had written to me.

One of our most charming memories is of wee Ian MacDougall with his label: "Please return me to the MacDougall tent if lost". I understand it was most necessary as he possessed a true MacDougall pioneering spirit.

We have returned home filled with admiration for the organizers of the Games who made it such a success, and for the MacDougall's share in it. It was one of the proudest moments of our lives when we were piped to the platform behind our twin standard bearers, a distinction I am sure no other Clan Chief can boast of. And it was thrilling to watch the march past, and the excellent turn out of the Clan MacDougall.

One of the most enjoyable functions was the cocktail party given by Mr. and Mrs. John and Mr. and Mrs. Wylie McDougall. Again we arrived to the pipes and spent a very happy time before all too soon we had to leave for dinner and the Tartan Ball.

As we arrived on the hilltop where the club was situated, we saw the magnificent Black Watch of Canada Pipe Band marching up and down in the dusk playing that haunting tune "The Green Hills of Tyrol". With a breath taking backcloth of shadowy mountains, it was something I will never forget and was a fitting link with the Canadian members of the Society.

The Ball was most enjoyable with some excellent singing, piping and dancing to entertain those of us who did not want to dance. We were delighted to see a charming McDougall tartan evening dress which seemed to fit in so well with the mens' kilts.

Next day the Games continued with another lovely day, commencing with a service taken by the Reverend Lachlan MacLean and the singing of familiar psalms well known to the highlanders. A notable event was the Tattoo by the Black Watch pipes and drums, always an impressive ceremony.

It was sad when it came to an end but it had been good while it lasted and they will all be back next year — the Clansmen, the tartan and the pipes, with Grandfather Mountain keeping watch.

Our last day at Linville was spent quietly with an interesting visit to Mrs. Agnes MacRae Morton's house. Also some hand loom weavers doing beautiful work were visited.

We very much enjoyed the drive back to New York and the wonderful programme of sightseeing en route arranged by the Howard MacDougalls. They seemed to know by instinct all the things we would enjoy the most.

I was interested to see the rhododendrons growing wild, and wild day lillies. They are garden plants at home. The countryside of North Carolina, Virginia and Pennsylvania was lovely and gave us a new conception of the United States and a great desire to explore further. It had the settled feel of real farming country with old buildings and barns. Some of the little towns we explored delighted us with lovely 1800 buildings and beautiful wrought iron work.

As we boarded the Q.E.2, we sadly said goodbye to all our friends who had been so kind to us and looked after us so well. We live in the hope of seeing them here at Dunollie soon.

THEY WILL BE MISSED —

ROBERT B. McDOUGLE, attorney of Parkersburg, West Virginia, a charter member of Clan MacDougall Society, passed away October 11, 1968. Survived by his wife Marion McDougale.

B. E. McDOUGALL of Stuart, Louisiana, passed away this summer. Survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. John B. Bennett.

JOHN H. McDOUGALL of Burlingame, California, passed away early this summer. Survived by his wife, Dorothy McDougall, who had planned with him to attend our Ju'y meeting in Linville.



Clan MacDougall with its own banner and the Chief's banner in the Parade of the Tartans



Madam MacDougall and Mr. MacDougall with Mr. and Mrs. Nestor F. MacDonald and Mrs. Agnes MacRae Morton receiving clan representatives at Tartan Ball



Our Chief and Mr. MacDougall with "twin standard bearers" John W. and A. Wylie McDougall in front of the Clan MacDougall tent



Clan MacDougall Society Annual Meeting at Linville



John McDougall family of Norfolk, Virginia, in full dress for the Gathering of the Clans



"Debbie" (Mrs. Alec Wylie) McDougall with Simms McDowell and Simms McDowell, Jr., at MacDougall cocktail party

Message From Our President

The Clan MacDougall Society of the United States is a strong and growing Society with a live and enthusiastic membership, and I believe every MacDougall who was in Linville for our meeting and the Highland Games will attest to this fact.

We had eighty MacDougalls at the meeting! The roll call is too long to repeat here, though a permanent copy of the attending members' signatures and addresses is being sent to Madam MacDougall to keep at Dunollie.

A special tip of our bonnets is due, however, to some who journeyed so far to be with us. Gordon S. McDougall from Bremerton, Washington; Ida K. McDougall Peterson from Seattle, Washington; Mr. & Mrs. David C. MacDougall from Santa Ana, California; Robert M. Leonard from Merced, California; Jack W. Milne from Dunsford, Ontario; Robbie Milne from New Market, Ontario; and Pat Milne from Clarkston, Ontario. Especially to be commended for attending is Donald McDougal, Sr., of Madison, Wisconsin, our First Vice-President when the Society was formed, whose failing health did not stop him from driving to Linville with Mrs. McDougal and being with us at the meeting and the Games.

Those who travelled the farthest, of course, were Madam MacDougall and Mr. MacDougall. From Scotland our Chief had carried a bunch of fresh heather so that each member might wear a sprig of it brought by her hand straight from Dunollie — a touching gesture, and the heather failed to go around only because the turn out of members was so much larger than she had really hoped for.

Our meeting opened with Madam MacDougall being piped to the rostrum where she made a simple and very moving speech to the Society of which she is Honorary President. Mr. MacDougall then gave us an interesting talk, from his architect viewpoint, on the restorations needed and undertaken for Dunollie Castle and on the remodelling of Dunollie House.

During the regular business meeting four additional members were enthusiastically elected to our Board of Directors: Mrs. Margaret MacDougall Allen, Mr. John A. McDougall, Mr. Donald A. MacDougall, and Mr. Hugh MacDougall.

Mr. Howard MacDougall, our Secretary-Treasurer, gave us the names of new members, new sustaining members, and new life members, to be listed elsewhere in this issue, and a financial report reflecting a healthier state than we have been in since the Society was organized.

The publication of Dr. Simpson's book, "History of Dunollie Castle and Clan MacDougall", which the members had offered to in part support, was reported presently at a standstill due to Dr. Simpson's death late last year. It is hoped the manuscript, though unfinished, can be obtained later.

Mrs. Georgiana MacDougall Dunn, one of our staunchest members, who always has interesting things to suggest and report, told us at the meeting that she has had Clan MacDougall Society made beneficiary of one of her insurance policies. Another indication of what loyal members we have.

The pictures in this issue, taken by many MacDougall camera enthusiasts and thoughtfully donated for our use, will tell the story of our get-together better than I can. The only thing they cannot tell is how much we missed having all of our members with us.

This has been our finest year and I see nothing ahead except a very bright future for the Clan MacDougall Society of the United States.

Clan Macdougall Tour To Scotland

At the suggestion and invitation of Madam and Mr. MacDougall, Clan MacDougall plans are now being completed for a very special tour to Scotland for members, their families and friends, early next summer. We will leave New York by air June 15th and return June 29th (an additional week may be spent abroad if you wish at no additional airfare).

We will have a couple of days in London, then fly to Glasgow and drive through the Trossachs for four wonderful days in the heart of MacDougall country at Oban. The parties, picnics, boat rides and events of these days will be as unforgettable as only our beloved "Coline" and "Leslie" know how to make them.

Next, we will drive to Fort William and along the shore of Loch Ness to Inverness, queen of the Highlands. Our road winds down to Gleneagles for some golf and relaxation, then on through Stirling, with an excursion into the Lowlands, and to Edinburgh for a finale in this lovely city. Cost from New York back to New York is \$797.

The tour is being handled by Mary MacDougall (Mrs. A. Wylie), McDougall's Travel Service, Inc., Monteleone Hotel, New Orleans, La. 70140. Write her for full details.

And do plan now to be on this fun trip, wearing your tartan of course on dress occasions of which there will be several, and together having a taste of Scotland that we could get in no other way.

Background Bits

Our Secretary-Treasurer, Howard Duncan MacDougall was born in Brooklyn, New York. He attended New York University, the American Institute of Banking and the Stonier Graduate School of Banking, Class of 1955, Rutgers University.

He joined the staff of the Williamsburg Savings Bank in Brooklyn where he was engaged in mortgage work and later in public relations. In 1960, he left the Bank as an Assistant Vice-President and joined the Savings Banks Association of New York State where he became Director of Public Relations. He is currently Director of Bank Operations and Services for the Association.

Mr. MacDougall married the former Etta-Marie Brandt of Washington, D. C., and Brooklyn in May of 1937. They have two sons, Robert Duncan, who is a graduate of Cornell University of Architecture and presently assistant professor of anthropology at the University of British Columbia, and Richard Howard who graduated from Boston University College of Liberal Arts in May, 1968, and enlisted in the United States Army. Both sons are also members of Clan MacDougall Society.

Mr. MacDougall has been active in community affairs in the Village of Freeport, New York, where they live, particularly in school affairs. Mrs. MacDougall has been a volunteer representative of the Experiment in International Living for ten years and the MacDougalls have been responsible for heading the program which sent 15 students in the past ten years to foreign countries as community ambassadors. The MacDougalls have also arranged for a number of foreign students to live with families in their community.

Mr. MacDougall is a member of the St. Andrew's Society of New York.

Always interested in things Scottish, since his paternal grandparents were born in Edinburgh and Glasgow, Mr. MacDougall and his wife visited Scotland in the summer of 1967 and called on Madam MacDougall and her husband. It was here they learned of the Clan MacDougall Society of the United States which, happily for the Society, they very soon joined. Both Mr. and Mrs. MacDougall devote many hours now to Clan Society matters and deserve full credit and gratitude from all our members.

Macdougall Pipes For Aye

If such a treasure should ever reach the market today, a set of bagpipes with the hallmark "MacDougall of Aberfeldy" would bring a very, very steep price.

For almost sixty years the great name and fame of MacDougall pipes and piping have been nearly dormant. But this year the MacDougall Girls Pipe Band of Halifax, Nova Scotia, received press coverage when its founder, Michael Daniel MacDougall, died. And this year clan member Pipe Major Harvey S. Ritch of the Caledonian Pipe Band of Charlotte, North Carolina, so pleased our Chief with his playing that in Linville she formally named him official Pipe Major of the Clan MacDougall Society.

So MacDougall piping is not stilled. Its glorious history as told in "Piping Times" by Alexander MacAulay and W. Thomson Argyll swells a MacDougall heart with pride. We are indebted to the Albert McDougall Christians of Indianapolis for the story.

Bagpipes are a primitive instrument consisting of a bag which receives the air and the pipes which give it out. They were known to the ancient Greeks, to Poles and Italians in early years. The English and the Irish developed elegant instruments. But it took the Scots, some time before 1500, to evolve the great Highland, or military, bagpipe whose wild scream has led armies into battle, rallied breaking ranks, and sung above victorious warriors in piobaireachd. So effective were the great pipes that after Culloden an act of Parliament declared the bagpipe an "instrument of war" and, to make assurance doubly sure, also eliminated the hereditary office of piper!

From very early times MacDougalls were skilled woodturners. Thus they could, and did, make their own pipes. By the beginning of the 16th century there appears to have been more than one MacDougall family of pipers on the Dunollie estates, where they were given rent-free houses and a piping school was maintained.

Alasdair Mor, however, is the first hereditary piper we know by Christian name, dates 1635 to 1709. His son, Raohnuill Bhan (Ronald) continued the hereditary line and was with Ian Ciar at the Battle of Sheriffmuir in 1715.

In the upheaval after Sheriffmuir, when the MacDougalls temporarily forfeited their estates, there was a drift of families from Dunollie. One of the piping families settled in Glencoe. Another went with the Marquis of Breadalbane between 1750 and 1760 as joiners and woodcarvers.

By 1781 a son, named Allan, was a piper at Taymouth Castle with Breadalbane. In 1792 Allan left Taymouth to open a shop in Perth where he made bagpipes and all the accessories. His son, John, took over the business, to be followed in 1857 by his grandson, Duncan, who was to become the greatest piper of his time.

Although Duncan was only in his early twenties, he already had a name to be reckoned with in piping competition having, at seventeen, won a gold medal for piobaireachd.

If you don't know what "piobaireachd" is, as your editor didn't, it is described in the dictionary as "elaborate variations for the Scottish bagpipe on a traditional theme". Such skill and imagination are required to even attempt it that Duncan MacDougall when he was an old man and was asked if pipes were difficult and how long it would take a beginner, is quoted as saying: "Some people never learn" and with a twinkle in his eye, "after two years you might play a little, but . . ."

Duncan's business flourished and he moved it to Edinburgh and finally to Aberfeldy. He went for a season as piper to Queen Victoria at Osbourne House; he was appointed Pipe Major to the Edinburgh Volunteers; and was offered other posts which he refused.



Clan MacDougall groups behind Pipe Major Ritch and wee Ian MacDougall for Parade of the Tartans

Meanwhile at Taymouth Castle, after the acts against the Highlands had been repealed, the Breadalbanes set out to get into their service the greatest pipers who could be obtained. The transfers of pipers soon commanded fees like professional football players and, for almost a century, pipers from Taymouth dominated open competitions.

John MacDougall Gillies, who had gained a reputation on the east coast, was taken from Aberdeen to Taymouth. He had been there less than two years, however, when one day Lady Breadalbane arrived from London in a bad mood because of heavy gambling losses. She sent for the factor and ordered: "all these pipers doing nothing but playing to sweep the drive."

MacDougall Gillies packed his pipes and belongings and left for Glasgow where he passed on his art and enhanced it in association with his famous contemporaries.

There were few pipers available who could replace MacDougall Gillies so the position of leading piper at Taymouth stayed vacant until finally, about 1870, Duncan MacDougall was persuaded to accept a part season engagement at Taymouth. After this season, the earl practically passed him a blank check to name his own terms. We do not know what this amounted to in cash, but one of the conditions was suitable premises for his expanding business in Aberfeldy and, because of business, that he would not be full time at the castle.

For the next fourteen years Duncan MacDougall was leading piper at Taymouth — a time during which the "season" at the castle was one of great splendour. Queen Victoria used Taymouth almost as her Scottish home before Balmoral was built. Here she gathered around her many of the crown heads of Europe. Duncan played for them, knew them well, and occasionally made pipes for them — though his most important customers were the famous pipers of that time. His pipes had a Royal warrant "Bagpipe makers to Her Royal Highness Queen Victoria".

He went on to win piping medals too numerous to mention here, culminated by the champion of champions Gold Medal, also referred to as the seven years championship. He appears to have retired from competitions after 1876.

Three sons helped him in his business and one of them, Gavin, carried it on after his death. Gavin, too, became a noted piper, winning the Gold Medal at Oban in 1896. He continued to lovingly make the now world famous pipes until he died in 1911. Since there was no one to carry the business on, and his daughters refused to sell, the shop in Aberfeldy closed and the art and craft, passed from father to son for centuries, came to an end.



Madam MacDougall of MacDougall addresses crowd of 13,000 at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

Chief Addresses Throng At Games

Introduced from the speakers' platform by Mr. Nestor F. MacDonald, President of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, the guest of honor, Madam MacDougall of MacDougall, spoke to the interested crowd with poignant simplicity.

"For many years we have heard of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games from MacDougalls and we have often wished we could be here. Now, thanks to Mr. MacDonald and the Clan MacDougall we have our wish. We are very appreciative of the great honor you have done us in inviting us to be your guests.

"There is a special link between the Chief of your Games and myself. To go back a very long way in history, there were two brothers, sons of my ancestor the mighty Somerlied, King of the Isles. From Dougal sprang the MacDougalls and from Reginald sprang the Clan MacDonald, two of the oldest of the Scottish clans. So I feel I can claim kinship with Mr. MacDonald.

"You will notice I put Dougal first. I think Mr. MacDonald would put Reginald first. There has long been doubt which was the elder brother. Recent research favors Dougal, but I don't feel this is a case for drawing claymores.

"I am here to bring you greetings from Scotland, the home of your ancestors. It is a wonderful thing that you still feel the pull of the Highlands and the pride of race, which is so strong in Scotsmen, and which can in no way conflict with your loyalties as American citizens. You have inherited certain characteristics including honesty, integrity, hospitality, and a sturdy independence which can only be of value to your country, and which are so badly needed in the world today.

There is a song some of you may know, and I would like to quote a few lines:

*From the far shealing to the misty isle
Mountains divide us and a waste of seas
But still the blood is strong, the heart is Highland
And we in dreams behold the Hebrides.*

"In this jet age you can do more than dream. The Hebrides are on your doorstep and a warm welcome awaits you."

New Directors For Society

Four new Directors were added to the present Board of Clan MacDougall Society at the recent meeting:

JOHN A. MACDOUGALL, Atlanta, Georgia, who is Manager of Power Generation Service of Westinghouse Electric Corporation, Eastern District.

MARGARET MACDOUGALL ALLEN (MRS. DON E.) of Allegan, Michigan, who has her A.B. and M.A. from the University of Michigan and has been teaching mathematics in Junior High School since her husband's death in 1963.

DONALD A. MACDOUGALL of Akron, Ohio, who prior to his retirement was an economist for the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company.

HUGH MACDOUGALL of New York City, who is Inter-Regional Adviser in the United Nations. As a hydraulic engineer, his work and field is the development of water resources for hydropower, irrigation, navigation, etc., of under-developed countries.



Madam MacDougall and Mr. MacDougall being piped into Reception at Eseeola Lodge

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Robert McDougal, Jr.	Chicago, Illinois
Neil A. MacDougall	Akron, Ohio
Edward T. McDougal	Winnetka, Illinois
Capt. Chris McDougal	Winnetka, Illinois
C. Bouton McDougal	Winnetka, Illinois

NEW SUSTAINING MEMBERS

G. Simms McDowell, Jr.	Savannah, Georgia
Mrs. J. C. Rapp	Shenandoah, Iowa
Mr. Charles H. MacDougall	Falmouth, Mass.
Mr. & Mrs. Donald McDougal	Madison, Wisconsin
David B. McDougal	Chicago, Ill.
Robert M. Leonard	Merced, California

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. Barry H. MacDougall	West Leyden, New York
Mr. James Harold MacDougall	Montreal, Canada
Mrs. W. H. Stender	Atlanta, Georgia
Allen Reid Oliver	Ontario, Canada
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Y. McDougal	Philadelphia, Pa.
Mrs. Ernest J. Palmer	Webb City, Missouri
Mr. David MacDougall	Alberta, Canada
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert A. McDougal	Idaho Falls, Idaho
Miss Helen E. McDougal	Knoxville, Tennessee
Mrs. W. D. Tichenor	Indianapolis, Indiana
Mr. & Mrs. John C. McDougal	Lincoln City, Oregon
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas N. McDougal	Lake Oswego, Oregon
Mr. Robert M. Leonard	Merced, California
Mr. Edward T. McDougal	Winnetka, Illinois
Capt. Chris McDougal	Winnetka, Illinois
Mr. & Mrs. Clayton S. McDougal	Solon, Ohio