

The Tartan



CLAN MACDOUGALL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

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FAMILY MACDOUGALL

In our era, and in our country, where the very foundations of 'family' now threaten to crumble, let's take a long look at what was probably the most tightly knit family structure ever to flourish.

It was so strong in Scotland that the whole concept of government was based on it. Thus, when the clan system became fully organized in the Highlands, the Crown or magistrates dealt with groups, or clans, never with individuals. The representative, or Chief, was directly responsible for the hereditary and adopted members of his clan.

There literally existed no person who did not owe or profess allegiance to a Chief because there was an actual statute requiring every man to find himself a Lord, that is, Chief. And a Highlander would have been in deep disgrace if he could not name his Chief and claim the protection of his clan.

The years and miles which separate so many Scotsmen from their "homeland" seem never to have entirely obliterated the sense of loyalty to their own clan. There is a sort of groping among present day clan organizations as to how to publicly express it.

Some clans, such as Clan Hay and Clan Wallace, have hit upon, or perhaps that is not the word, an archaic document called a 'Bond of Manrent' which they use in ceremonies inducting followers into clan membership. John Hay of Hayfield, Lord High Constable of Scotland, we understand has said that: "Full clan membership of any clan can be obtained on signing a 'Bond of Manrent' to the Chief of the Clan, and although these missives are old fashioned and have little legal meaning these days, they are reminders of our more vigorous past".

The word "manrent" comes from the old English "manred, manreden or manradan" which in 1581 was defined as the conduct of an army; by 1630 it referred to the group of men called on by their Lord in time of war: and by 1679 the term meant simply "homage", thus 'Bond of Homage'.

When the word manrent was used in Scotland, it is unlikely it ever referred to a bond between an individual and his Chief, though in some clans it possibly could have. Different customs were brought to different parts of Scotland from overseas of course.

However, any type of bondage was so foreign to the fierce pride of the Scot that the interpretation placed on 'Bond of Manrent' by Frank Adams and Innes of Learney seems far the more probable: "When a clan or sect was too small or weak to

stand by itself it strengthened itself by entering, through its chief, into a bond of treaty with friendly neighbors against the attacks or encroachments of mutual enemies or rivals. Such bonds were styled 'Bonds of Manrent'. By the terms of these bonds the subscribing parties pledged themselves to assisting each other."

Clan MacDougall was in those days one of the powerful clans, not small nor weak, so they had no need of such bonds. At least no records are extant of a 'Bond of Manrent' in Clan MacDougall history.

Nor is our Chief one who would care for a token 'Bond of Homage' from MacDougall clansmen. She, herself, comments simply: "Anyone of the name MacDougall can regard himself as a member of the Clan. Members who join a Society in doing so show their special interest in and loyalty to the Clan and recognition of the Chief."

The family MacDougall is still too strong to need alliances to push it ahead or to need devices to hold it together. Our Chief is responsible for keeping our Clan relationship proud and traditional. For this the entire 'family' is grateful.



Hugh Cooke MacDougall Wears Tartan Dress in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, at Ball of the Marine Corps Detachment of the American Embassy.

LONELY ON AN ISLAND

To the island of Barra, the furthestmost point in the Outer Hebrides, Malcolm and John MacDougall sailed out from Larun about 1785 to take charge of a grist mill on the island.

Barra, which is five miles long and four miles across at its widest point, with the peak of Heaval rising 1,260 feet in the interior, must look much the same today as it did to Malcolm and John when they landed. The only town is Castlebay, on the shore of the bay from which medieval Kisimul Castle, stronghold of the MacNeils, rises.

By 1802 Malcolm, who had married Catherine MacNeil and had seven children, and his brother John, along with other residents of Barra — 370 in all, made their plans to leave Barra on the ship HECTOR to make a home in far away Nova Scotia.

The saga of their arrival at Pictu, Nova Scotia, later that year, and their later move to Antigonish and Cape Breton Island is sent to us by Elizabeth MacDougall of New York City, taken from a book by Archibald J. MacKenzie which traces the MacDougall families down to the Honorable Hector F. MacDougall, member of the House of Commons, and beyond.

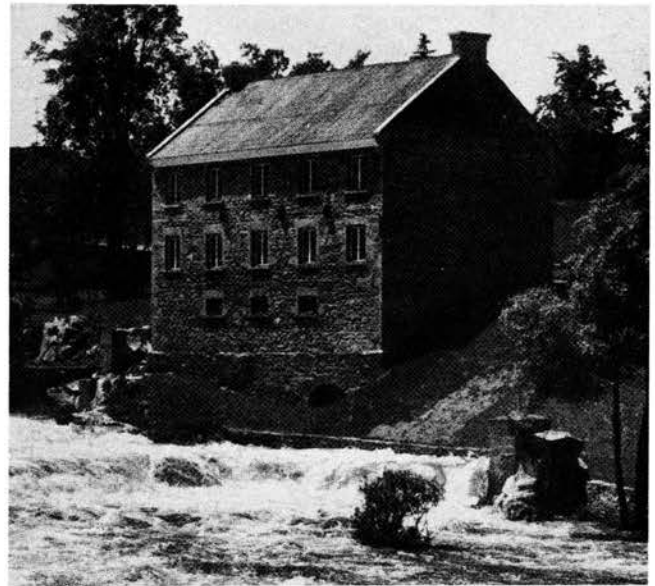
The families were so large that, as Elizabeth MacDougall puts it, "It staggers the imagination to reflect on the number of people to whom one is related!" And this is a fertile field for MacDougall genealogical study.

But here we are concerned with Malcolm MacDougall so long ago whose plans were made to leave Barra. Besides being a miller, he was a good mason it seems. Further than that, he was the only mason on the island. The people of Barra got together and somehow persuaded him to stay, as they felt they could not do without a mason.

So we wonder what his emotions were when the HECTOR with his sons Hector, Archibald, Adam and Donald, and his daughters Sara and Margaret aboard set sail from Castlebay. How did he feel as he lost sight of the ship in the vast Atlantic, knowing that news of his family might never again reach him and that he was left alone with one daughter, Jessica, who remained. Dangerous though it might be, theirs was the excitement of adventure; his only dull days of allegiance to his adopted Barra. At least we know that he never fulfilled the dream to leave. His grave is there. And the mill in which he once worked still stands, converted into an inn, with the mill stones used as door steps.



Castlebay, Island of Barra, from where a Group of MacDougalls Emigrated to Nova Scotia in 1802.



McDougall Mill 119 Years Old..

MACDOUGALL IN GEOGRAPHY

In Ontario, Canada, halfway between Renfrew and Douglas on County Road No. 5, stands what is left of a town named McDougall.

It had a postoffice, located in the country store, which was closed in 1968. The store itself which has been serving the community since 1889 still goes on in the tradition of an unhurried past. "In the autumn", says a newspaper article sent to us by member Harry Hinchley of Renfrew, "it was nice to see the farm women bringing in their supply of homemade butter, rendered pork lard, eggs and beef hides to exchange for store goods plus some money to take home."

As often is the case, it seems impossible to track down the reason for the town's name and no McDougalls are left there now.

However, we do know about John Lorn MacDougall, a Hudson's Bay Company fur trader, who had come to nearby Renfrew and by about 1840 had opened the first store there. In 1855 he bought land and built McDougall Mill, which he operated until his death in the 1860's.

McDougall Mill was then operated by his son, John Lorn MacDougall, Jr., who became one of Renfrew's most distinguished citizens. He is believed to have been the town's first graduate from the University of Toronto. He was elected member for Renfrew in the Ontario Legislature and later was elected to the House of Commons. In 1878 he was appointed Canadian Auditor-General, a position he held until 1905.

In 1883 John Lorn MacDougall, Jr., sold the mill, which changed hands several times, was operated as a flour mill and later as a woolen mill, and finally in 1963 was donated by Mr. Michael J. Murry to the town. McDougall Mill, an interesting and unique structure considered to be one of the finest examples of stone mill construction in Ontario, is now a museum. Member Hinchley has some documents which he says he may donate to McDougall Mill Museum some day.



"Kirkin' o' the Tartan" in Williamsburg

DRESSED & SWINGING

Kilts got a real airing in the south in honor of St. Andrew. Many a gentleman who had never sported his own kilt before was spotted at social gatherings, closing the ranks of Scotsmen who still had not capitulated to tartan dress. Rainbow hues and brilliance were everywhere.

No Clan Society members so far as we know were in attendance this year at the St. Andrew's Society Ball in Washington where our tartan, we understand, is now displayed with the others. However, your President and his wife and Tartan editor and his wife had much pleasure attending the gala dinner party of the St. Andrew's Society of the South in Birmingham, Alabama, a very posh affair.

And in Williamsburg, Virginia, MacDougalls were in full regalia for the "Kirkin' o' the Tartan" when the local St. Andrew's Society marked its first observance of this ancient custom. "Gathering in the church courtyard with bagpipes sounding in the background and crowds watching from the street, the group formed a colorful procession headed by bearers carrying the flags of the United States, Scotland and Saint Andrew."

Since kilts are for wearing, not for relegating to a closet to wait for a "masquerade" occasion, excerpted comments from Madam MacDougall's authentic writing on the subject make interesting and instructive reading.

She mentions, for instance, that the Victorians "were responsible for the long kilt which gives it a petticoat appearance and started the unfortunately still widely held idea that to get the kilt of the correct length it should just touch the ground when a man kneels. In reality," she writes, "it should be two and three quarters to three inches off the ground."

"The kilt is so ancient that it is not possible to trace its exact origin. It was evolved to meet the needs of a race of mountaineers and warriors.

"The 'breacan feile' or belted plaid was formed of a long strip of tartan, half of which was pleated around the waist and held with a belt, and the remaining half was fastened to the shoulder and hung down the back, to form the plaid, thus leaving the arms free. In rain or cold weather it formed a mantle wrapped around the upper part of the body.

"This was followed early in the eighteenth century by the "feileadh beag" or "little kilt". This was pleated, sewn, and fixed around the waist by a strap, half a yard being unpleated at each end and crossed in front. Virtually the kilt as worn today. Some of the old kilts in our possession are

made with box pleats instead of the usual knife pleats.

"The day time kilt is worn with as simple accompaniments as possible. The sporran, originally a simple leather or skin bag, takes the place of non-existent pockets. Evening Highland dress can be very elaborate. Velvet is often used for the doublet. Lace jabot and ruffles are worn on formal occasions.

"The Sgian Dhu, or black knife, was worn stuck into the top of the stocking and was used for everything from cutting up food to sticking into ones foes. The evening Sgian is often elaborately ornamented with a jewelled top. The dirk, rarely worn now, was a dagger about a foot long worn suspended from the waist.

"One often hears comments on some wearer of a kilt who looks as if it is a part of him. The kilt should look natural and graceful and this look can only be acquired by constant wear until the wearer ceases to be conscious of it or to feel dressed up.

"It is after all a working as well as a ceremonial garb," Madam MacDougall reminds us. "The younger a boy starts wearing it the better it will look on him when he grows up ... as it gives that wonderful grace and swing."

Upon this note THE TARTAN cannot refrain from commenting that five year old Ian McDougall of Norfolk, Virginia, is getting his kilt-wearing practice early. And his kilt-wearing practice is often in front of cameras, such as at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, and at the "Kirkin' o' the Tartan", where flaming haired young Ian, bless him, caught every photographer's eye.



Young Ian McDougall of Norfolk Helps Band Member Tune Up for "Kirkin' o' the Tartan" in Williamsburg.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Each year at the meeting of our Officers and Board of Directors, we have discussed what we might do to add interest in our Society for all of our members.

A year or so ago, we were able to obtain copies of SCOTLAND'S MAGAZINE which carried the story in words and pictures of the history of Clan MacDougall, and this we sent to all of our members. On another occasion, we sent all of you copies of the article in LIFE magazine concerning the lost correspondence between General Alexander, John MacDougall and George Washington. Last summer, as you all know, we had as our guests in this country for two weeks Madam MacDougall of MacDougall, our Chief, and her husband. The last issue of THE TARTAN gave you a full report of their visit as guests of honor at our annual meeting and at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.

This June we have for you the very special Clan MacDougall Tour to Scotland. The plans made to entertain us in Oban, and all along the route we will take, are great and we are bound to have a wonderful time. We will see the very best of Scotland. As MacDougalls together, the visit to MacDougall country at the invitation of our Chief, and in the company of Madam MacDougall and Mr. MacDougall while we are in Oban, will be an experience to be treasured.

In the near future we have in mind sending to each member a genealogical questionnaire asking for additional information concerning the ancestral background of our members. The membership application form gives us information about the members' immediate families but that is about all.

We believe that by tabulating the returned questionnaires, facts will be uncovered which will be of interest to all of us and of particular interest to many. It may be we can trace "lost" ancestors both in this country and in Scotland. From the tabulation we certainly should be able to follow the pattern of migration taken by our ancestors when they left Scotland and came to the United States and Canada, where they settled, and in which periods in the history of our countries the migrations took place.

We are going to need the help of a trained and experienced genealogist to make this survey meaningful. Fortunately, this service has been offered to us. I will tell you more about this when the program gets under way.

Also, we are going to need the help of all the members. I would guess that many of you will be able to fill in the questionnaire rather completely while others will have only meager information. But we will want every scrap of information we can get.

Our Society, for a very nominal amount, has taken out membership in The Scottish Genealogy Society of Edinburgh. By its constitution, the Scottish Genealogy Society exists to "promote research into Scottish Family History" and to "undertake the collection, exchange and publication of information and material relating to Scottish Genealogy". I believe this can help us. I have found that records of births, deaths, and marriages were kept more efficiently in Scotland than in many parts of this country.

But what will help us most of all is if the members are interested and enthusiastic about developing this MacDougall genealogical survey for posterity.

For members who possibly can do so, I know that attending our annual meeting in Linville creates perhaps the most interest of all in our Society. Our secretary, Mr. Howard MacDougall, will be mailing out shortly notice of our sixth annual meeting.

This meeting will be held on Saturday, July 11th, at 10:30 AM at the Eseeola Lodge at Linville, North Carolina. We will miss not having our Chief, Madam MacDougall, as our guest again this year, but we are expecting a good attendance. Again we will attend the events of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games together, with the MacDougall tent as our headquarters on the meadow. And again, on Saturday night, we will be seated at the MacDougall table at the beautiful Tartan Ball. I really do not believe that any member who has come to Linville for this occasion has ever gone away disappointed.

J. MacDougall



Margaret MacDougall Allen (Mrs. Don E.), Director of Clan MacDougall Society.

BACKGROUND BITS

The only lady on Clan MacDougall's Board, now comprising eleven Directors, is delightful Mrs. Don E. Allen (Margaret MacDougall Allen) of Allegan, Michigan.

Mrs. Allen's grandparents came to Michigan from near Oban in the 1860's and took up farming. Mrs. Allen still has the farm, on which only seven acres were cleared when her grandparents acquired it. Alexander MacDougall was her grandfather's name, and Margaret MacDougall her grandmother's, and they were not related except by marriage — a double lineage for Margaret Allen.

Her father, Hugh MacDougall, was born in Michigan; and her mother's people were also early settlers of the area. Margaret is their only child.

Margaret, herself, has always lived in Allegan except for a few years away teaching in Lansing. She graduated from the University of Michigan with an AB and then returned to the Graduate School for her Masters. Her major was mathematics.

She has always enjoyed teaching Junior High School. So, after her marriage to Don E. Allen, a Civil Engineer with his own consulting practice, it was not hard to talk her into teaching again when someone resigned at the school in Allegan. She has been teaching ever since. Since her husband's sudden death some six years ago, she has even broadened her teaching to include a night class in the Adult Education Program in beginning Algebra. She comments about this that many of the students are former drop-outs returning to earn their High School diplomas, and she finds it interesting because they are now so interested.

Margaret Allen leads a busy life. Besides teaching school, she is on the City Library Board, a member of the Session of the Presbyterian Church Treasurer of the Allegan Area Community Chest, belongs to educational and professional organizations, and also is a member of the D.A.R.

As for hobbies, she is enthusiastically working on her new cottage on Lake Michigan which has just been completed — even in its winter dress. She is an inveterate reader of "Who-Does-Its", and plays bridge in her spare time.

AFOOT AT THE FOOT OF DUNOLLIE

Just outside of Oban, on the side of the Corran Road away from the sea, an upright pillar of rock stands on end and is some 20 to 30 feet in height. This rock is known as the Dog Stone. It seems that Fingal, the great mythological Gaelic hero, used it as a stake to which he would tie his dog, Bran, when he visited Dunollie Castle, or the fortification which earlier stood on that site. It is interesting that Fingal, the Fair or White Foreigner, according to the story, visited Dhugall, the Black or Dark Foreigner. What they talked about, what schemes they may have been plotting, are mere conjecture now. These could have been just friendly social visits, too, of course.

John J. MacDougall of New York, who visited Oban and Dunollie Castle shortly after meeting Madam MacDougall and Mr. MacDougall at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games last summer, paints a wonderful picture for us of his first sight of Dunollie.

Mr. MacDougall, incidentally, also provides us with side-lights on two recent articles in THE TARTAN. He tells us that the man who founded the MacDougall Girls Pipe Band was his father's second cousin and that the band was composed, at least initially, of the cousin's daughters. With reference to MacDougall Pipes and Pipers, he says that when his father was a boy down Nova Scotia way just about every farmhouse of his relatives had someone who made and played his own pipes.

Mr. MacDougall's impressions of Dunollie are part of a longer and intensely interesting description of his trip through Scotland and a very thorough description of the keep and Dunollie manor house. Only lack of space here keeps us from publishing it in full.

He was enchanted with Oban. "It is a lovely coastal seaport town", he says. "The stone structure of the buildings could not help but impress the observer with the fact that the houses and shops were made to endure far beyond the life span of any man."

"Strolling northward past the wharf and along the road which follows the shore, I had a very pleasant walk. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Argyll and the Isles has the Cathedral Church of St. Columba on this road. The coast offered a good view out over the water toward the islands of Mull and Kerrera.

"In the near distance, while walking along the shore road, one can view what looks like the tower of a fort, protruding out of trees growing atop a steep hill and overlooking the sea below. This is Dunollie.

"Upon approaching, one can see that the hill is a gigantic rock formation, 80 to 100 feet high, with crags and rocks sweeping up from the sea side and with Dunollie commanding the cliff and the entrance to Oban."

This is the view the Norsemen and Gaels of old must have had of the fortification as they approached from the sea in their galleys; this is the way it must have looked to them as they clambered up among the rocks and crags to reach it.

"I could not help but feel the strength of the fortification", Mr. MacDougall says. "On reflection it became obvious to me that had this particular stronghold not existed in the structure and in the commanding physical position which it stands, the MacDougalls centuries ago might have lost their identity as a separate and individual clan."

There were other MacDougall strongholds. Seaward, on Kerrera Island, the MacDougalls built Gylen Castle in 1587. Three miles from Dunollie is Dunstaffnage Castle, also built by MacDougalls. They also built Ardchattan Priory on Loch Etive, and Stalker Castle. All told they built or possessed eight such strongholds and controlled many more.

"In a sense though," Mr. MacDougall says, "all MacDougalls of this current day can proudly hold their

CLAN MACDOUGALL TOUR TO SCOTLAND

Question: Where do we meet on June 15th to join the tour group?

Answer: We meet at the Pan American check-in counter at Kennedy Airport at 8:30 AM. Our flight to London will be on one of the new 747's. For those who must come to New York the night before, reservations will be made at the International Airport Hotel, and we will have an informal get-together at the hotel that evening.

Question: What kind of clothes will I need?

Answer: England and Scotland can be chilly so bring a light topcoat, a sweater, some rain gear which we hope not to need, cocktail type clothes for the dressier evenings, comfortable shoes for our outings.

Question: Must the men wear tartan dress on the suggested occasions?

Answer: No, indeed, there is nothing obligatory about it. However, the more tartan worn on the special occasions, the more impressive our group will be. For the "black tie" affairs, decorations are appropriate for those who have them.

If any tour member would like to borrow kilts, why not drop us a line? It is possible that among the society's members you can be outfitted.

Question: Shall I take my golf clubs for Gleneagles?

Answer: No, the 44 pounds per person carried free by the airlines is pretty restrictive and there is not actually golfing time enough to make it worthwhile to carry your own clubs.

Question: Can I stay over after the tour is over on June 29th?

Answer: Yes, by notifying us in time to properly route and issue your air tickets.

Question: How late can I register for the tour?

Answer: You can register up to May 1st, providing there is still some space available on the tour. Call or wire Mary McDougall, McDougall's Travel Service, Inc., Hotel Monteleone, New Orleans, La. 70140 (Phone: 504-523-3461) for late registrations. Your registration will certainly be accepted if it is at all possible.

heads high and look any man in the eye when it comes to reckoning the history of Clan MacDougall, in main due to the existence of impregnable Dunollie."

These were some of the thoughts passing through Mr. MacDougall's mind as he stood at the foot of the cliff on a drizzly day, with low visibility just beginning to clear, when he was setting eyes for the first time on the rock and the castle looming forebodingly over him in the darkness of the growth surrounding them. Rock and fortress seemed inseparable. They also seemed unapproachable from the sea side, the place where he was lucky enough to get his first vivid impression of Dunollie.

THEY WILL BE MISSED

URSULA MACDOUGALL, wife of our Clan Society Director Hugh MacDougall of New York City, died last December after a very short illness. The MacDougalls had been with us in Linville last summer, as we all remember.

Member LINDSAY W. MCDUGALL, retired attorney and father of Louisiana State Commissioner of Administration W. W. McDougall, died at Covington, Louisiana, where he had lived with his family for many years.

DR. LUTHER L. MCDUGALL, JR., of Tupelo, Mississippi, died last December. His brother, Professor Myres S. McDougall, and other family members of our Clan Society survive him.

RICHARD MCFADYEN of Roseland, New Jersey, died in November of last year. He is survived by other family members of our Society.

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PRESIDENT OF

SPRING CLASS



Dr. John Duncan MacDougall of Indianapolis.
Chosen President of class.

Dr. John Duncan MacDougall, an Indianapolis surgeon, was chosen president of the Illinois Steven L. Miller, 33rd, Class, which concluded its convocation at a reunion banquet last April. He is a member of Mystic Tie Lodge.

We are indebted to Albert McDougal Christian, Jr., of Indianapolis for this information, and also for the interesting fact that member Dr. John Duncan MacDougall's father, Duncan Campbell MacDougall, was included in this spring class. He

has been raised in 1912 in the Masonic Lodge in St. Andrews, Scotland, and had left his membership there until 1969 when he demitted to Mystic Tie Lodge of Indianapolis.

NEW MEMBERS

Miss Regina C. McDougall - Vancouver, Canada
Mrs. Perry E. Koon - Port Hueneme, California
Miss Pamela A. McDougall - Ottawa, Canada
Mr. Robert W. McDougall - Jacksonville, Florida
Rev. & Mrs. W. Davidson McDowell - St. Louis, Missouri
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon A. MacDougall - Nashua, New Hampshire
Mr. Cameron F. MacDougall - West Palm Beach, Florida
Mr. & Mrs. William James Leonard - Hendersonville, North Carolina
Mr. & Mrs. Colin B. MacDougall - Falmouth, Massachusetts
Mr. & Mrs. Ellis C. MacDougall - Somers, Connecticut
Mr. Albert B. McDougall - Citrus Heights, California
Mr. & Mrs. James Campbell MacDougall - Louisville, Kentucky
Mr. & Mrs. John Ardis McDougall - North Ridgeville, Ohio
Mr. Malcolm MacDougall - Manhasset, N. Y.
Mrs. W. E. Haase - Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Mrs. Victor A. Reisig - St. Joseph, Michigan
Mr. & Mrs. James A. Waller, Jr. - Blacksburg, Virginia
Miss Maureen MacLean - Middleton, Nova Scotia, Canada
Mr. & Mrs. A. Hector MacLean - Liverpool, Nova Scotia, Canada
Mr. & Mrs. Allen M. McDougall - Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

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 Dues:

\$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.