

The Tartan



Clan MacDougall Society of the United States and Canada

VOLUME NO. 17

FALL 1973

GENEL LOAIRN "KINDRED OF LORN"

There may be no designation which fits MacDougalls better than that we are kindred of Lorn.

Lorn of course is a place name. It was given as long ago as AD 500 to the area indelibly linked with MacDougall Lords of Lorn. Almost as long ago, too, there was a fortress there called Dunollie. That both these names still have such special meaning to MacDougalls, and that they were well known at least 500 years before our clan came into being, prompts us to look way, way back in our history.

Clan MacDougall itself traces back to AD 1164 and the mighty Somerled. From Somerled onward, for such an ancient clan, our history is remarkably clear. The best and most authoritative record to date, which we will rehearse later, is in outline form. It was written by Alexander James MacDougall of MacDougall and is the frame for the research of family records and unpublished material which Madam MacDougall and her family are presently doing with a view toward compiling the detailed accurate clan history, including life histories of its long line of hereditary chiefs. Such a volume will be of inestimable value to MacDougalls and to everyone interested in Scottish history.

The book properly should, and probably will, start with Somerled. However, since Somerled did not just spring out of the air, nor Clan MacDougall suddenly burst into being, we are indulging ourselves in conjecture about what we were doing before we were a clan, even before we were known as kindred of Lorn.

We can ascertain, if we want to delve that far, that we came to the British Isles from the continent by, or before, the year BC3000. During the next three thousand years we hunted and foraged for our food, banded ourselves together in family units and then in tribes for companionship and for protection. The hardest possibly ventured furthest west, to Ireland.

Written history starts with the Romans, who almost got to Lorn before we did. But they never quite made it. Gnaeus Julius Agricola, when he was governor of Britannia in AD 78 - 84, with his legions pushed north to a line running roughly from Edinburgh to Glasgow where the so-called Antonine Wall was built to hold back northern tribes.

The Romans, inadvertently, did the northern tribes a good turn by giving them a common cause to band loosely together to keep from being overrun. Romans called them "picts", probably a disdainful term meaning painted savages because the use of body paint and tattooing is supposed to

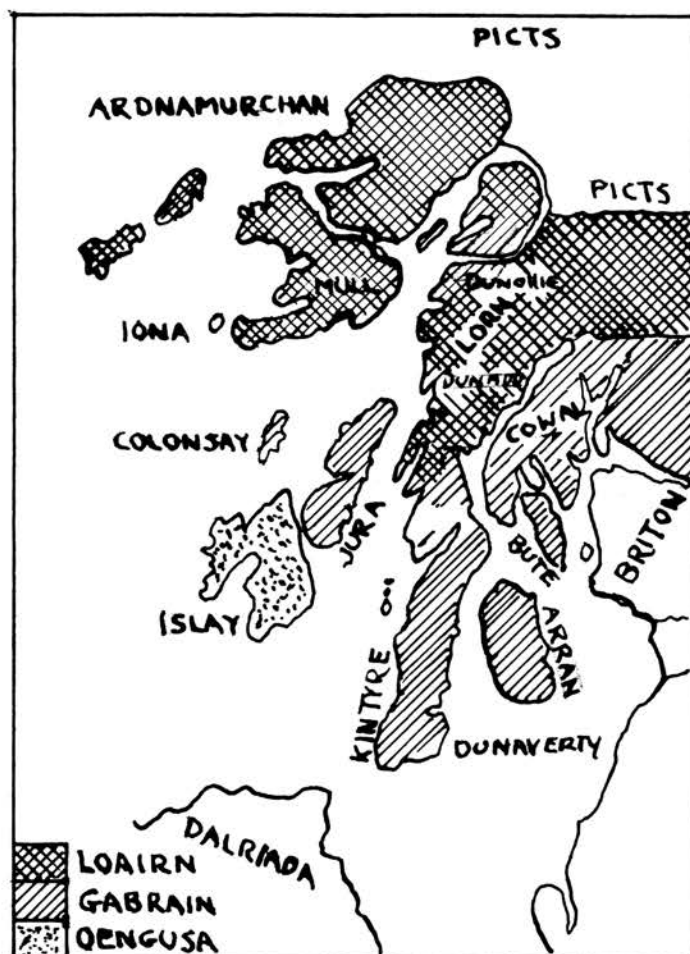
have been prevalent among them. In time they formed a strong Pictish nation.

The Romans also did us a good turn because when the few of us started arriving in our boats from the Ireland kingdom of Dalriada soon after AD 300, the Picts took no special note of our incursion. They may have welcomed us, to help them harass the Romans. The Romans called us "scotti", having named Ireland "Scotia".

In increasing numbers we settled on the islands which served as stepping stones across the narrow passage, and on the western coast of the mainland.

By about 500, our settlements had become so stable and important that Fergus Mor, of the ruling house of Ireland, came in royal person to take up residence among us. We

(Continued on next page)



Ancient Kingdom of Dalriada of the Scots

GENEL LOAIRN (Continuation)

were elevated to the status of the scotti, or Scots, of Dalriada, and our holdings came to be known as the kingdom of Dalriada.

The kingdom was made up of three powerful groups: kindred of Oengus who controlled Islay, kindred of Gabrain who held islands and lands in the south, and kindred of Lorn, named for Loairn, brother of Fergus, who held Lorn, Mull, Iona and everything to the north not already occupied by the Picts. As was the custom, each of the groups had a king. However, armed might determined which of these was the over-king. The kindred of Gabrain and the kindred of Lorn were the two most potent groups.

We of Lorn had a fleet of 21 curachs, fitted with sails and each manned by 28 oarsmen. We could muster a total of about 700 fighting men, among whom was a band of Airgialla (Argyll), hired soldiers from Ireland who had settled in Lorn. Our strongholds were Dunollie and Dunadd on the Crinan Canal.

We could, and did, flex great muscle even though the Gabrains managed to top us in fighting strength. The question of who was to have the over-king rocked in the balance with Gabrains on top until toward the end of the late 600s when Ferchar Fota became our first over-king.

The dominating position in Dalriada, however, was not easy to hold. By now the Pictish people mounted a campaign to drive out the Scots and Lorn bore the brunt of the attacks. Though these came to an end in 741, and a hundred years later Pictland and Dalriada joined in political union (a union which eventually produced the kingdom of Scotland and the disappearance of the Picts as a separate people) — though the Picts were subdued, trouble from another source was at hand. From the Norsemen. And again we of Lorn were directly in the path.

Viking raiders started swooping down from the north, looting and destroying. The Airgiallas in our midst had increased in numbers and influence on the mainland and in the islands, and fighting was in their blood. But, even with additional forces sent out from Ireland to help, the equally warlike Norsemen gained ascendancy.

Only at the end of three hundred wild, weary, bloody years came Somerled the Mighty, king of the Isles, to break the Norse hold on our lands.

Somerled was of royal descent, 14th in line from Colla Uais, king of Ireland in 254, and 15th from Conn Lead Caiha, a fearsome predecessor known as "Conn of the Hundred Fights". Besides his conquest of a vast territory in the islands and on the western coast over which he gained undisputed domination, Somerled's statesmanship gained him further powers. He achieved a peaceful alliance with the great Fergus of Galloway, thus protecting his southern flank, by marrying Fergus' daughter. After her death a few years later, he extended his control to the north by marrying Ranghildis, daughter of Olaf the Red, Norwegian king of the Isles. Thus the mighty Somerled, for however brief a time, held what seemed an almost impregnable position.

Ranghildis' first son was born. They named him Dugall. This is where, and when, Clan MacDougall has its origin.

In the next issue of THE TARTAN we will leave fanciful conjecture about the centuries before Dugall and get to the outstanding events in the history of the clan he founded as published in 1939 by MacDougall of MacDougall writing in "S. M. T. Magazine" and Scottish Country Life.



Three generations of McDougall members: Director John, President John, Alec, Director Wylie, Vice President Wylie.

Tip of our Tams to . . .

BARBARA MCDUGALL (Mrs. George E.) of Greenville, S. C., for making and presenting to the Society the stunning Clan MacDougall banner for use at our gatherings and at our tent. Of MacDougall tartan, full width and ten feet long, with the words CLAN MACDOUGALL boldly appllied in white felt, it is not only beautiful but is also eye-catching, as was intended. Other clans won't have to squint to identify us from now on.

MARIE and JOHN MCDUGALL of DuBary, Florida, for the really substantial and man-sized folding table for our tent. A knowledgeable gift from our tent chairman who has observed how much table space it takes to put down MacDougall papers, registers, box lunches and libations.

HARVEY RICH for giving the Society the handsome length of MacDougall tartan to be used on banquet and meeting tables and on the table at the tent.

WYLIE MCDUGALL of New Orleans, La., for making a hand-lettered plaque listing Clan MacDougall Septs, to be hung under the big MacDougall wooden shield he made for in front of the tent several years ago. It is essential for members of our septs to be able to find us, and is handy to refer to when we ourselves might not be altogether sure of our clan relationship to someone we are meeting for the first time.

JOHN W. MCDUGALL of Nashville, Tenn., for the superlative way he handles The Tartan Ball every year. MacDougalls take pride in this brilliant affair as they watch their High Commissioner, its chairman, introduce the dignitaries present — a list as long as his arm — and preside as master of ceremonies until the last strain of Auld Lang Sygne is played.

Clan MacDougall Party

by Marshall McDougale

Our first Scotchtreast cocktail and dinner party was as big a success as we knew it would be when MacDougalls had a chance to get together. The event, of course, was at our annual meeting last July.

By the time more than fifty of us had assembled in the long low private dining room at Sugar Mountain Lodge, we could hear a bagpipe. Stepping out on the terrace, we could see coming up the path, dappled in late afternoon sunshine filtering through the pine trees, a resplendently kilted piper. He was none other, naturally, than member Harvey Rich, official piper for Clan MacDougall. The party was now under way.

Old friends and new friends had a "cup of kindness" together, admired the beautiful new MacDougall banner Mrs. George McDougall had made which was hanging at the far end of the room, and chatted about the many things we would be doing for the next few days.

Then it was time to be seated at the U-shaped banquet table, and there was a hush of expectancy. The haggis was about to be piped in.

In age old festive Scottish tradition, Harvey Rich marched in first playing a happy raucous tune. Just behind him strode High Commissioner John McDougall carrying aloft the silver platter with the haggis on it. Next was Simms McDowell who would give a lusty recitation of Robert Burns' Ode to the Haggis before plunging his dirk in traditional style into the steaming pudding. I was next, carrying the silver quaich once given to a MacDougall by Bonnie Prince Charlie, and loaned for the occasion by Margaret MacDougall Allen. I had to walk carefully not to spill the amber Scotch whiskey in the quaich from which the traditional toast would be drunk. And last was Donald MacDougall to say the blessing on our food and friendship.

We all enjoyed the dinner — even the haggis which each of us got to taste. The evening was interspersed with music of a different kind than piping. The Neil MacDougalls had brought a merry recording of "Tweedle Dee, Tweedle Dum", a popular South American song with exciting Latin rhythm, which is all about — believe it or not — MacDougall hiding in a cavern to gather his clan to fight the MacGregors! Those of us who had been together on the MacDougall Tour to Scotland became nostalgic over the song "Haste Ye Back" which Barbara McDougall, who had never seen the score, sang much better than we did. The MacDougall piano playing and singing during the evening may not have been of concert caliber, but it was all fun.

Everyone wants to have another party next year. With the great help of my co-chairman, Neil MacDougall, and committee members, Rhetta McDowell and Barbara McDougall, I'll be glad to set it up. Let's have twice as many members there next time. Y'all come!

CONGRATULATIONS TO —

Robert Steve Ficker who married PATRICIA ANN, daughter of member MRS. WILLIAM JAMES LEONARD, on the sixteenth of June, 1973, in The Church of St. John in the Wilderness in Flat Rock, North Carolina. The wedding was followed by a reception at the Henderson Country Club.

Mr. & MRS. A. D. MACDOUGALL of Staymer, Ontario, Canada, on their golden wedding anniversary in September, as reported to the Society by Madam MacDougall.



Director Neil and Wynn MacDougall, of "Tweedle Dee, Tweedle Dum" fame, at Highland Games.

LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. John W. McDougall	Dr. & Mrs. John D. MacDougall
Mr. & Mrs. A. Wylie McDougall	Mr. W. Ruell Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Taine G. McDougall	Mrs. George G. McDougall
Mr. & Mrs. Edward D. McDougall, Jr.	Mr. James E. MacDougall
Mr. & Mrs. Howard D. MacDougall	Mrs. Don E. Allen
Mr. Hugh C. MacDougall	Mr. & Mrs. Donald A. MacDougall
Mr. & Mrs. George E. McDougall	Mr. & Mrs. John A. McDougall
Mr. & Mrs. Robert McDougall, Jr.	Mr. & Mrs. Donald McDougall
Mr. Neil A. MacDougall	Mr. & Mrs. Donald McDougall, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. C. Bouton McDougall	Mr. & Mrs. G. Simms McDowell, Jr.
Mr. Edward T. McDougall	Capt. & Mrs. Lester L. McDowell
	Capt. Chris McDougall

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

For Year 1973-74

Mr. & Mrs. Hume G. MacDougall	Mr. Jack W. Milne
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Clan MacDougall Dinner Party

President's Message -

I wonder if you have ever stopped to ask yourself the question just how does Clan MacDougall Society of the United States and Canada rank with other clan societies. I can tell you most emphatically we rank very high on the list. Here are a few facts to back up this statement.

When our society was organized in January, 1965, there existed only seven clan societies that I know of. They were the American Clan Gregory Society founded in 1909, Clan MacLeod Society of America, 1954, The Clan Donald Society, 1955, Clan MacLean Society of U.S.A., 1960, MacDuffie Clan of America, 1962, Clan Hay Society, 1963, Clan Morison of North America, 1964. In number of members and in most activities we have surpassed all but three of these societies.

Clans Wallace, Gunn, Rose, Buchanan, McCallum, Ferguson, MacNeal, MacFarlane, MacIver, and MacClellan have organized societies since 1965.

Word spread quickly of the success of the Clan MacDougall Society, and I have felt highly complimented that I was asked by most of the above clan societies for information as to how our society was organized. I have lent my help and advice freely and most of the new societies have followed our organizational plan. It has been very interesting to see how these societies have grown and prospered in just a few years.

We were one of the first clan societies to hold our annual meeting at Linville, North Carolina, and to have a tent at the site of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. We established this precedent and all of the clans I have mentioned have followed our lead and now have their tents at the games and many hold their meetings there.

We started a society news organ directed to items of special interest to our own clan. Most of the other societies followed suit. Specific clan news and specific clan pride, I believe, tie each of us closer to our common Scottish heritage. Far from dividing us, it actually unites us as we clan societies gain from each other in an exchange of ideas, in social contacts, and in friendships.

The Clan MacDougall Society stands out at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, as those of you know who have been there. The men of Clan MacDougall who march in the Parade of the Tartans are always recognized and applauded for their number, their marching and their striking MacDougall tartan. We outnumber all other clan societies at the Tartan Ball. No one could argue that the MacDougall men in their dress kilts and their ladies in their evening dresses and tartan sashes most impressively represent our clan.

It has been some time since I have used this column to express my appreciation to our Life Members and our Sustaining Members. It is their contributions which make it possible, in these days of increasing operational costs, for our society to keep functioning. Their names are listed in another column. We would welcome other members to their ranks.

I want to again extend a cordial greeting to the new members who have joined our society since the last membership roster was printed. I hope I will have the opportunity of meeting and knowing you all personally.



High Commissioner



Director Alexander Wylie McDougall

BACKGROUND BITS

Alexander Wylie McDougall, one of the five newly elected young Directors, has missed only one annual meeting of the Society since it was formed ten years ago. He is looking forward to the privilege he has been given to bring new ideas and energy to the governing Board.

Wylie was born in Nashville, Tennessee, on August 24, 1939, the youngest of our High Commissioner's three children. His early schooling was in Nashville, following which he attended Tulane University in New Orleans. At Tulane he was a member of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity and graduated in 1961 with a degree in Business Administration.

According to family plan, he returned to Nashville and went into his father's firm, the John W. McDougall Co., Inc., engineers, contractors, metal fabricators and manufacturers' agents of building specialties. Unlike some family plans which have to be altered, this one worked out perfectly. Wylie is now Vice-President of the company and is Manager of the Manufacturers' Agency Division.

He served six years in the Tennessee Air National Guard.

In 1963 he married Deborah Earl of Louisville, Kentucky, and they have three children: Heather, age 8, Alex, age 7, and Katie, age 3.

All his life, Wylie has been an enthusiastic outdoorsman, hunting and fishing in the Louisiana marshes when he was in Tulane, and in Tennessee and Arkansas later. He devotes a great deal of time and energy to the Ducks Unlimited organization. His superbly trained Labrador retriever, named Mac, comes only after his family in his affection.

In High School he became Nashville Junior tennis champion, but gave up tournament play in favor of sailing when his family spent much of their time at their home on Old Hickory Lake. He still enjoys a game of tennis and also golf at the Belle Meade Country Club, of which he is a member.

He hopes, he says, that he will be able to contribute even a small part of what his father has to the Clan MacDougall Society.

CONDOLENCES TO -

The family of member AUGUSTUS LEE "GUS" McDOWELL of Ashland, Kentucky, who died on July 4, 1973, was buried in the tartan kilt of his family. A donation in his memory was made to Clan MacDougall Society by Robert H. Staley and Sally Staley Stone.

SCOTTISH BOOKSHELF

by Margaret MacDougall Allen

Maybe you read about our terrifically hot weather in Allegan early this fall, which was marvellous for swimming in Lake Michigan and lying on the beach but not conducive to book reporting. Then school opened and you know what that means.

So I am just now getting to talking about those books.

Do you remember that last spring I told you about reading "ROBERT THE BRUCE, The Steps to the Empty Throne"? It is the first book of a trilogy, written by Nigel Tranter and published by St. Martin's Press of New York. I found it so thrilling and exciting that I prevailed upon our librarian to order the second and third books of the trilogy and have found them wonderful summer reading. In fact, I can't think of a nicer Christmas present for one Scot to give another than these three books about Robert the Bruce.

The first, "The Steps to the Empty Throne", is the story of the beginnings of the attempt to unite Scotland under one rule, the heroic story of William Wallace, the struggle with the powerful John Comyn ending in his death at Bruce's hand, and the great effort to keep Scottish factions together.

"ROBERT THE BRUCE, The Path of the Hero King", the second book, I found even more fascinating. I couldn't put it down. It continues with Robert the Bruce, King of Scots in name only, guilt ridden and excommunicated because of the killing of John Comyn. There is constant strife and violence in his determined battles to weld the Scots together. His wife is captured by the English, as are other members of his family. His followers, after Methven, have to be built up from a mere handful of the faithful. Bruce is continually torn apart by his problems. The book tells of the spider in a Galloway cave which inspired him to fight on.

Now comes the part that is of particular interest to MacDougalls. In any history of Bruce, as you will understand, a MacDougall is one of the villains of the piece. It was Alexander MacDougall's wife who was the sister of John Comyn, the mighty opponent whom Bruce murdered. For this, and also politically, the MacDougalls were out to smash Bruce, and vice versa. The book contains the story of the attack on Bruce's party and grabbing of the brooch from his shoulder, also of the final defeat by Bruce and the loss of the MacDougall lands and, finally, the acceptance and oath of fealty to Bruce.

The second book ends with the Battle of Bannockburn where Bruce faced the mightiest army of that time, and won.

The last book, "ROBERT THE BRUCE, The Price of the King's Peace", pictures his seemingly endless struggle to hold the Scots together and to come to a treaty agreement with the English. Fourteen years were to go by before he was recognized as a sovereign king.

He is reunited with his wife after eight long years and this book gives more insight into his life with his family and his love for his wife who had great influence over him.

It tells, too, of the fighting in Ireland and England, and of the attempt to take all religious authority from the Scots.

Finally in 1328 there is the meeting in Edinburgh where the peace treaty is signed. Scotland is free. Bruce's royal state is recognized by all. The Church is united. But Bruce is ill and mourns that he will never be able to make a promised Crusade. Here ends the trilogy with his request that his heart be taken on a Crusade against the Infidel by his great friend Douglas.

Bonnie Prince Charlie is the subject of "THE LAST STUART" by David Daiches, published in 1973 by G. P. Putnam Sons of New York. It is an attempt to explain the irresistible appeal "the last Stuart" has had for so long a time. A



MacDougall trophy awarded by Nestor MacDonald, President of Highland Games, to Drumming Champion Eddie Aston.

more scholarly presentation than many, full of facts, I found it rather slow reading.

Have you seen the book "THE HIGHLAND CLANS" — Moncreiff of that ilk? It is a collection of pictures, short descriptions of clans, their history, their castles, and present day Chiefs. An interesting book to refer to.

With winter at hand, and more time for reading, won't you let me know what of Scottish interest you are finding? Write to me: Mrs. Don E. Allan, 323 Walnut Street, Allegan, Michigan 49010.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY

When reporters accused California's Governor John McDougal of intemperance in office ("The Five McDougal Brothers" — THE TARTAN Spring & Fall 1972), his defenders said they had him confused with James Alexander McDougall.

The business of getting one MacDougall off the hook by blaming drunkenness on another MacDougall makes it sound as if MacDougalls had a corner on ending up badly in California politics, and in a way they did. But the founding days of the State of California may have been more influenced and benefitted by both James Alexander and John, during their good years, than is currently credited to them.

It is Donald A. MacDougall of Akron, Ohio, whose probing into the Biographical Directory of the American Congress (1774-1971) and the National Cyclopaedia of American Biography brings out startling similarities in the lives and careers of these two men.

James Alexander McDougall and John McDougal were born within a year of each other, they both arrived in California from the east in the early days of the gold rush. James Alexander was Attorney-General of California at the time John was Governor of the state. Both later became confirmed alcoholics; and they died within a year of each other. History can be pardoned for getting them mixed up.

James Alexander was born in Bethlehem, New York, on November 19, 1817. After a public school education, he studied law and settled in Cook County, Illinois. He was admitted to the Chicago bar, of which he was termed one of the pioneers, in 1837. Five years later he became Attorney-General of Illinois, an office he held for two terms.

His next public office was as Attorney-General of California from October 7, 1850, to December 30, 1851, when he

(Continued on next page)

SOCIETY WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Since the last Membership Roster was printed, the following new members have been welcomed into our Society:

Mr. James McDill
86 Munn Avenue
Teaneck, New Jersey 07666

Mr. James T. McDougale
7712 Hayfield Rd.
Alexandria, Va. 22310

Mrs. G. F. Watts
44 - Wickstead Avenue
Montreal, Quebec
Canada - 304

Mr. James Armour McDougall
Route 2, Box 54
Rolla, North Dakota

Mrs. Jessie McDougall Leary
571 Mimioi Place
Kihei, Hawaii

Mrs. Olaf Lindbo
Box 236
Rolla, North Dakota

Mrs. Elizabeth R. McDowell
401 Washington Street
Ligonier, Pennsylvania

Mr. Peter McAdam Dougall
5100 Newton Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minn. 55419

Mr. Craig Allen
3337 Faring Road
Birmingham, Alabama

Mr. & Mrs. John D. Moon
1111 East Brow Road
Lookout Mtn., Tenn. 37350

Mr. William Lowell MacDougall
5100 N. 37th Street
Arlington, Va. 22207

Mr. Ernest J. House
P. O. Box 548
Marion, N. C. 28752

Mrs. Murray (Joan) Cass
75 Whitley Avenue
Downsview, Ontario M3K1A1
Canada

Mr. Angus McDougall
813 Watts Street
Durham, North Carolina

Miss Clare W. McDowell
84 Forest Hills Drive
Asheville, N. C. 28802

Mr. E. McDougald
80 Mason Blvd.
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M5M-3E1

Mrs. Elwood Bear
Route 1
Pequea, Pa. 17565

MISTAKEN IDENTITY (Continuation)

resigned.

In 1853 he was elected to the Congress of the United States where he served for two years. Then in 1861 he was elected to the United States Senate, and remained there for six years.

Based on the bare fact that he held these important elective offices in Illinois, in California, and representing California in Washington, and held them during a period stretching over 25 years, it is sad that he is remembered mostly for his senatorial career. Stories circulate that during his six years in the Senate he made only one speech on the floor, and then took three weeks to sober up.

It is not possible that he could have fooled so many voters so many times if he had been a habitually ineffectual inebriate. Instead, during the greater part of his public life, he must have been "an eloquent and effective speaker," as reported in the National Encyclopedia, "gifted both as an orator and a statesman."

"His career was cut short by intemperance," as also reported by the Encyclopedia, and by 1867 when his senatorial term had expired, neither he nor his former backers looked forward toward his reelection.

James Alexander McDougall died on September 3rd of that same year in Albany, New York, and was returned to San Francisco for burial, his good years of service to Illinois and California largely forgotten.



Director George and Barbara McDougall relaxing on MacRea Meadow.

MCDUGALL HOUSE OF TALLAHASSEE

The 1972 Florida Legislature voted to acquire a handsome historical landmark known as "The McDougall House".

The last owner was Mrs. P. B. McDougall, a granddaughter of the original owner, Peres B. Brokaw. The lovely home was built in 1850 with lumber brought over from England. Its massive Corinthian pillars, doors, cornices and bronze chandeliers were all imported from London too.

The antebellum mansion has remained in such excellent condition that, according to the Tampa Tribune-Times, it may be used as a residence for visiting official dignitaries instead of being converted into a historical museum.

Thus, like Washington's "Blair House", Florida's spacious, gracious official guest house may be "McDougall House".

BACK ISSUES OF THE TARTAN

Sixteen back issues of THE TARTAN, inexpensively bound, are available for those who would like to have them for reference or for a record of the Society's development.

With your request, please send check for \$7.00 (made payable to Clan MacDougall Society), for the cost of gathering, binding and mailing, to John W. McDougall, P. O. Box 90207, Nashville, Tenn. 37209.

THE TARTAN

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