

The Tartan



Clan MacDougall Society of the United States and Canada

Volume II, No. 17

Wylie and Mary McDougall, Founding Editors

Fall 1988

Dunollie Castle

An important fortification called Dun Ollaigh was already in existence on this site in the 7th Century A.D. In the 12th Century Somerled, whose lineage mingles with the royal lines of Scot and Norse was king in the Hebrides and Regulus of Argyll. Dougall his eldest son, inherited Argyll and the isles to the west and was the progenitor of the MacDougalls of Lorn and the chiefs of the Clan MacDougall. The date of the existing keep of Dunollie is uncertain but parts of the structure and the north curtain wall probably date from the 13th Century in the time of Ewan, third chief of Clan MacDougall. The castle was abandoned in 1746 when the house below was built. Both remain in the ownership of the MacDougall Chief.



Marker Mounted on Wall of Castle

By John W. McDougall, High Commissioner

It has been a year since I have reported on the activities of the Clan MacDougall Society Foundation. Our most important accomplishment during the year was the presentation made to our Chief, Madam MacDougall of MacDougall of the aluminium plaque that tells the history of Clan MacDougall and Dunollie Castle.

We shipped the plaque to Madam MacDougall last spring. A friend of hers, who is in the construction business and whose name is MacDougall, erected the plaque for her. Shortly after the plaque was erected I received a very nice letter from Madam MacDougall to thank us and to tell us how pleased she was with the plaque. She sent along a picture to show how the plaque looked erected on the wall of the castle. She also told of finding a visiting MacDougall, with pad and pencil, copying the working as set out on the plaque. We can now be assured the plaque will add to the interest and pleasure of all MacDougalls visiting Dunollie Castle. John and Jean McDougall Dunn from Elora, Ontario, visited Oban and Dunollie last June. They very kindly sent us prints of excellent pictures they took of Dunollie and the plaque.

The Foundation is continuing to send history books of Clan MacDougall to colleges and universities, and we have received letters in return thanking us and complimenting us on these books that will be used in their libraries.

The contributions that have been received by the Foundation from our members have reached a substantial amount. We encourage all members to contribute to the Foundation and remember all contributions, small or large, are tax deductible.

Message From Our Chief

The following message from our Chief, Coline H.E. MacDougall of MacDougall, was read at the Society's annual meeting July 8 at Linville, NC.

Greetings from Dunollie!

The most important event in our year was the arrival of the plaque for the Castle. It is beautifully made and looks very nice on the wall of the Castle. It hadn't been up a day when I found a tourist copying it down in her notebook. It will be of great value in giving tourists, not only members of the Clan, information about the Castle. We have a great number visiting it.

I asked a MacDougall, a local builder, to put it up and he refused to take any payment because he was a MacDougall. We have put it up rather high on the wall, to try and keep it out of reach of vandals.

We have spent your generous gift on having all the gutters painted, quite a big job on a house this size; also decorating some rooms in the old house which hadn't been painted for years.

Our piece of Canadian Maples grown from seed, given me by Ewart Everson of Montreal whose wife is a MacDougall with whom we stayed on our first visit to U.S.A. and Canada, were a wonderful color last autumn. They have grown into big trees. They were grown the year your society was formed.

The Castle is now a National Monument and we had to get permission to put the plaque up.

With my most sincere good wishes to you all.

President's Report

By now all of you should have received a letter from John W. McDougall, our high commissioner, tracing the progress of Clan MacDougall since it's founding in 1965. We plan to supplement the current two issues of *The Tartan* with a similar newsletter to keep everyone up to date on Clan activities.



George E. McDougall

In 1971, with the approval of our Chief, Madam Coline MacMacDougall of MacDougall, we became the Clan MacDougall Society of the United States and Canada. Madam MacDougall designated the Septs of the Clan to include Carmichael, Conacher, Cowan, Dougall, Dowall, Livingston, Livingstone, MacConacher, MacCowan, MacCoul, MacCulloch, MacDowell, MacDowall, MacDoloth, MacHowall, MacKirchen, MacLucas and MacLucash. In the next issue of *The Tartan*, we will include a discussion on Septs of Clan MacDougall as approved by our Clan Chief and how they have become associated with Clan MacDougall.

Since that beginning in 1965, the Clan Society has grown to more than 600 members and continues to grow with the great interest that has been demonstrated at the many Highland Games throughout the United States and Canada.

The annual meeting, held July 8, 1988 at Eseeola Lodge, Linville, NC, was well attended.

Majorie McLeod, secretary-treasurer of the Ontario Chapter, was awarded the A. Wylie McDougall and Mary McDougall award of a life membership in the Society.

Society librarian, Nancy Van Valkenburgh, was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Society.

A very fine program was presented by Walter M. Macdougall of his slides covering his last visit to Scotland. We are very fortunate in having such a fine resource of pictures: Dunollie, Gylen Castle, Kerrara and the MacDougall strongholds of a bygone era.

John W. McDougall reported that the plaque was installed at Dunollie Castle and has now become a point of interest to the many MacDougalls and Clan members who visit Dunollie each year.



The Clan was represented at the Charleston, SC, Highland Games and Clan Gathering in September.



Kilted MacDougalls step out in the Parade of Tartans July 10 at Grandfather Mountain.

Again, our thanks to John W. and Walter for all their work in making this project a reality.

Participation in the many highland gatherings continues to grow. We are now represented at 15 games and we will continue to lend financial support to those members who desire to man a tent or who wish to represent Clan MacDougall at Scottish events.

We are continuing to update our records and would appreciate your review of the list of Clan Members who have had a change of residence and who have had their mail returned for lack of a proper address (see list on page 5).

Please be on the lookout for new member sand let us know of their interest in Clan MacDougall.

Shelby Moon Moves Up

By John A. McDougall

Shelby Moon, son of long-time members Deaderick and Ann Moon of Chattanooga, TN, came to Grandfather Mountain this year hopeful of doing well in tossing the caber. He had won several caber tosses at other Highland Games, but this time it was different.

You see, Shelby recently passed an age milestone into his teens. He can no longer be an older boy in a young group. Now he is a young boy in an older group. Quite a difference. He was hopeful of doing well, but he knew it would not be easy.

The big boys use a much bigger caber. I advised him to get some advice from Todd McDougall who had placed first in the amateur class caber toss at Stone Mountain Highland Games last October. Shelby found the opportunity to get advice from Todd while we all stood waiting to start marching in the Parade of Tartans on Sunday morning.

"Pick it up using your legs, and not your back," Todd said. (Good advice in picking up any heavy object.) Todd gave some excellent coaching to a very interested Shelby. And the results were very good. Shelby won first place. The victory gave plenty of credit for both Todd and Shelby.

The tug-of-war team was all set to defend the title they won last year. And, although they had just two members of last year's winning team, this year's team looked unbeatable. It appeared that there was just one possible way they could be prevented from repeating last year's victory, and it happened. It rained so long and so hard, that the contest, the last on the program, was canceled.

Lachlan MacDougall 1748 - 1820 Pioneer

In the Spring 1987 Tartan, the Clanspeople On The Go column noted the efforts of John A. MacDougall of Corapolis, PA, to write a biographical sketch about Lachlan MacDougall of Moidart.

Following is the sketch John presented at a Buaidh Latha (Victory Day) celebration July 23, 1987 at Broad Cove Banks, Nova Scotia.

A human story about a real human being Lachlan Duncan Lachlan MacDougall by his descendant, John Bernard Lachlan Dougall Alexander Lachlan Duncan Lachlan MacDougall

To be human is to have ancestors, a culture, traditions, roots.

For the MacDougalls of Broad Cove, our human heritage comes principally from Lachlan MacDougall, pioneer.

Lachlan and three of his sons, Archibald, Duncan and Alexander, came to Broad Cove, Cape Breton, in 1808 after spending 16 years at Marysville near Antigonish. Antigonish has been well repaid by later generations of MacDougalls from Broad Cove.

Lachlan and Alexander are my ancestors. They brought with them from Kinloch Moidart in the area of Lochaber and Arisaig on the Scottish Western Sea their culture and traditions and set up homes in Board Cove. It is from this source that I have my roots.

Kinloch Moidart:

Kinloch Moidart is located on the shores of the main body of Loch Moidart, an arm of the Sound of Arisaig. It is close to the point at which the Moidart River flows into Loch Moidart.

Kinloch Moidart is not more than 15 miles as the crow flies from the Jacobite Monument preserved at Glen Finnan by the National Trust for Scotland. When I hear Moidart, the words of the song rush to my ear,

*"The News from Moidart Come Yesteree'n
They've landed Royal Charlie"*

The district of Moidart contains beautiful mountains and glens, hills and lochs such as cannot be seen in any other part of the world; its rivers, straths and bens will provide the painter with fresh inspiration for his brush; the historian will find here much food for thought and study, within the bounds of this district have lived a people whose loyalty has been the finest, whose unswerving faith and unshakeable fidelity to a most worthy cause, alas! a lost cause, cost them their lands, homes, their blood, and banishment to foreign and new lands.

Traditions:

Lachlan and his sons brought to Nova Scotia the traditions that had been handed down to them from generation to generation.

Among the traditions that we cherish are their love of learning, their language and poetry, their strong family ties, their courage and persistence and their faith and religious beliefs.

Although not educated at a traditional university, they learned by lesson of example, by the oral tradition and by observing and remaining in balance with nature. They loved the sea and its riches and were able to harvest from the sea food and the other gifts that the sea brings. They were great storytellers and from their own family tradition, had many stories to tell. I am sure it was their inspiration that convinced John L. MacDougall to record the History of Inverness County one of our treasured written accounts of the earlier days in Broad Cove Banks.

Their language was Gaelic, the language of the Garden of Eden. This language is one of the oldest in the world and its roots can be traced to the Celtic languages and the origin of the Celts in the area of Thrace in Asia Minor.

Their language was poetic and lyrical and full of song. Many of the good stories of our pioneers are told in song. One that interests me is *The Song of The Black Pot* (still)

"S mise mac na poite dubhe,

*'S mi 'n a m' shuidhe bun an gealbhain,
's e 'n t-eorna buidhe b'athair dhomh;
b'e 'n atharnach mo sheanmhair
aonghus dubhe 's an duine sin
bha sinn an uiridh conailbheach;
chan fhaca mi aon fhathast
a thug barr ort an Albainn."*

*I am the son of the Black Pot (the still)
And I am sitting at the fire hearth
the yellow barley was my father and the
second crop was my grandmother, that man there,
black Angus and myself were friendly last year.
I have not seen one yet that surpassed you
in Scotland.*

The three MacDougall brothers settled on neighboring farms in Broad Cove. I am sure that their social life was not unlike that in the glen when I was young. I saw neighbors helping each other at harvest time and during other periods of hard work. They were very clannish and of course retained a loyalty to their plaid and their Chief of Oban.

Faith and Religious Beliefs:

Saints Columba and Ninnian brought the Christian religion across the Western Sea to Scotland in the Fifth Century. The father of the First Dougall, Somerled, was a protector of the Celtic Church. The cross of Saint Columba forms a part of the Arms of the Chief of Clan MacDougall.

Saint Maluag (489 AD) helped spread the faith through the Highlands. His Crozier — the Bachuil Mor is still maintained on the island of Lismore by the Livingstones of Lorn in trust for the MacDougall Clan.

I am sure that Lachlan and his sons received the same message when they left Scotland as my mother's family (The MacLellans) received from Father Rankin. "Remember that your family has been Christian for over twelve hundred years. Remember and maintain and keep your religion for your children."

"Cuimhnich Air Na Daoine O'N D'Thainig Thu"

One of the better results of putting on the years is that your memory regarding certain things that occurred in your more youthful days comes into much better focus. As I told my brother Malcolm last year, I can see things more clearly now. We had been considering preparations for "Buaidh Latha" and scraps of remembered words and incidents were being assembled.

In fact we remembered enough incidents and stories to complete several pages in what we know would have been Lachlan MacDougall's Diary if he had written and maintained a diary. So it is with honor and respect for Lachlan and his descendants that I give you the following extracts from Lachlan's Diary:

July 23, 1817

Tonight we gathered at the humble dwelling of Lachlan MacDougall for prayers, Gaelic song and some bonnack.

It had been a very dispiriting winter for us, so long and cold, so much misery and sickness. Indeed at times we questioned not only our future but our very existence amongst these bleak, Broad Cove Banks.

However, today is truly a victorious one for us in this our new Highland home. Our first harvest of the year, five loads of thick hay and the potatoes and turnip show excellent promise. Of Victory or Death we now firmly place our faith in the former.

Ours has been an arduous journey and many fears confront us in our new lives. Tonight we are confident of our abilities and our strengths. We will strive and struggle — we shall survive. We must. We owe it to our future generations.

August 7, 1817

Broad Cove is now our home for good. Archibald, Duncan and Alexander have neat farms all connected by common boun- See Lachlan MacDougall, Pg. 4, Col. 1

Clanspeople On The Go



Word from Cooperstown, NY, indicates that **Hugh and Eleanor MacDougall** are enjoying retirement and the cultural amenities of their new hometown as well as the gentle hills and beautiful Lake Otsego.

Hugh is keeping busy with the local Rotary Club and is a director of the Cooperstown Art Association and Friends of the Village Library. He also is researching James Fenimore Cooper for a *Guidebook to Cooper Sites in New York* for the centenary of the author's birth in 1989.

He also has started a monthly *Burma Press Summary* condensing the important news in the *Rangoon Working People's Daily*, which has a growing number of subscribers among Burma scholars and Burmese living in this country.

★ ★ ★

Dr. Robert A. McDougal and his wife, **Lee McCall McDougal**, are charter members of the Scottish Society of Indianapolis, IN, which boasted two "Kirkin' of the Tartans" last November.

The first was at the 11 a.m. service in St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church. In the afternoon a Kirkin' was held at Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral on the Circle. It was part of the church's celebration of its 150th anniversary located on the Circle in the

Lachlan MacDougall

daries. My son **Hugh** has found some productive land in Broad Cove Marsh.

Archibald Mac Isaac and my daughter **Ann** have taken up a beautiful farm nearby and are raising a nice family.

Duncan (an tailor) has not been well recently and I fear that his son John will have to assume the father's role too soon.

We are happy in this Island of Cape Breton, everyone here has the Gaelic land and the tongue of the Sassenach is rarely heard. For this blessing we;

"Lift up our eyes to the mountain from whence our help shall come. Our help shall come from the Good Lord who made heaven and earth."

December 25, 1817

Christmas at Broad Cove is a beautiful time for me. With so many of my children and grandchildren around, I know that the future will be full of happy and joyous times for the MacDougalls.

There is serious talk of a church at Broad Cove Marsh and Alex Don Rory has given some land near the sea for a future graveyard. I would be happy to spend my eternity there.

Today we had a lovely dinner of roast pork, applesauce and other preserves. Some of our friends from Loch Ban gave us an ISBAN which we decorated with cooked cranberries. There is talk of a Haggis party on Hogmanay.

After dinner we started telling stories and the one I liked best concerned our neighbor Donald. It seems that last October when one of Donald's cows was late in coming home he sent his wife to look for the errant cow. When neither the wife nor the cow returned at dark, Donald and his neighbors searched until they found the cow. As they were returning an inquisitive friend asked Donald if they should continue looking for his wife. Donald replied, "Oh, there is no fear for her, this is a small Island and she's bound to come out somewhere!"



Clansmen line up for Parade of Tartans at Dunedin, FL, games in April.

center of Indianapolis.

Dr. McDougal writes that another member of the Clan MacDougall Society, **Albert M. Christian**, also attended the afternoon celebration.

Stork Line

Steve and Monica Simmons of Corinth, MS, are the proud adoptive parents of **Catherine Liddon Simmons**, who was born Feb. 18, 1987 in Armenia, Colombia. The proud grandparents are longtime Society members, **Frank and Shirley Simmons**, also of Corinth.

Welcome to **Jessica Dale Macdougall**, 9-pound 1-ounce daughter of **Malcolm Alan and Cynthia Macdougall** of Bristol, TN. The first-time proud grandparents are **Walter and Judy Macdougall** of Milo, ME.

March 17, 1988

On this anniversary of St. Patrick that great patron Saint of Ireland we give thanks to the Lord for all that we have and will receive. Today we had a real meal of "Potatoes and Point" and the herring looks like it will last for a week or two yet.

Alexander, who likes a little gilleach now and then, gave me a hot toddy of black rum and honey that quite hit the spot.

We were reminiscing about Cape Mabou hospitality and he reminded me of his last visit to Sight Point when he stopped by the see the widow MacKay. She has been alone for five years now with five young children. Alexander told me she has little more than the proverbial pot but her heart is big as she loves a good ceilidh.

Alexander says that his visit with the widow illustrates the ultimate in Scottish hospitality. She insisted that he stay for dinner and continue his journey in the morning. As he prepared himself for his repast he heard wild and agonizing shrieks from a pig in the barnyard. Alexander thought little of this but as it continued he began to wonder.

When they sat down to table, Alexander was astounded to find out that she had cut the ears and tail off the living pig and was serving them to him for dinner. As Alexander ate, the pig continued to shriek.

Alexander did not enjoy the dinner any more than the unfortunate pig. However, remembering this episode of true hospitality always cheers him up.

October 4, 1818

Praise be to the Lord and all the Saints in Heaven. This day I attained the dignified age of 70 years.

The Almighty has been kind to me, a good and strong wife with a good family to remain with me during my later years.

The last 10 years at Broad Cove have been filled with challenges and opportunities. With the help of the Lord we have met and overcome all challenges and look forward to many more years. Victory is ours today but the grim reaper is in the shadows and I think the second part of our clan motto may not be far away.

Lachlan

Missing Member Search Under Way

Following are the last known addresses for 17 members of the Society whose mail is being returned and we unfortunately most list among the missing. Anyone having a current address for any of these members should send it to George E. McDougall, 15 Partridge Lane, Greenville, SC 29601.

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RD 1, Box 622
Lake Hopatcong, NJ 07849

M/M Allan K. McDougall
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Mrs. Geraldine McDowell
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M/M Tom M. McDougall
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M/M Robert McDougall
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R. Frederick McDowell
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Mrs. Mary MacDowall
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Portland, OR 97225

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28 Hadley Road
Seabrook, NH 03874

Mr. Donald J. Dougall
1848 Mill Road
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2010 River Falls Drive
Kingswood, TX 77339

Frederick & Donna McDowell
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Agnes Reid Veech Viser
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Andrea C. Blackburn
1204 S. Washington St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

M/M R.O. MacDougall
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New Glasgow, N.S. B2H-1C9 Canada



Flowers of the Forest

The officers and directors of The Clan MacDougall Society of the United States and Canada extend sincere sympathies to the families of **Clair E. McDougall** and **Mrs. Myrtle Pulfer**.

Clair E. McDougall, a retired East Coast district sales manager for Merck-Sharpe and Dohme, died May 30 in Largo, FL.

Survivors include a sister, Zellamarie McDougall of Stevens Point, WI.

Mrs. Pulfer, a former member of the Ontario Chapter, died Sept. 16.

Survivors include a brother, John W. McDougall, and a nephew, John R. McDougall.

Images of Scotland More Than Rain, Tartan

By Cynthia J. MacDougall

At one time when I thought of Scotland, two images came to mind — a cold, rainy climate and tartan (lots of tartan). I think of Scotland often now, and, when I do, a smile touches my lips and my spirits lift — for Scotland offered me much more than rain and tartan.

We arrived in Scotland on a rainy Friday morning. So far, the trip was just as I had imagined — rain and tartan. But from that moment, I came to realize that you should never form an opinion on hearsay. I would soon come to understand what this country and its people would mean to me.

The Scottish countryside was captivating. I feel foolish trying to describe the majestic beauty with the inadequate adjectives and metaphors in the English language. I recall telling my friends: "The grass is green, really green and the water is blue, I mean blue blue!" Sounds pretty descriptive doesn't it?

And the people with their Scottish accents and traditions. Phrases such as "give way," which means yield; "take away," for take out food; and, if a small boy age 3 tells you he can ride his bicycle without stabilizers, the wee chap means his training wheels!

We had the pleasure of spending six short, but memorable days in Oban, stronghold of the MacDougall Clan. We visited the Isle of Mull, Iona and Staffa. These were interesting places, but there are two places that really touched my heart — the visit to Gylen Castle and Dunollie Castle, MacDougall castles.

Gylen Castle sits on the tip of Kerrara, high on a cliff. To get to the castle, you must take a ferry, then walk two miles on a winding road. You think you'll never get to the castle, and then you look up and there it is — a reminder of what this country used to be. And for a moment, you're caught up in the past as you envision the knights, the ladies-in-waiting, the pride these people felt in their land, their name — our name — **MacDougall**.

The castle still stands tall after all these centuries, but the wood has long since rotted. To think that some day Gylen will no longer be standing is truly devastating. For standing inside these walls, I felt the spirits of all those who lived before me. Pride welled up in me, and I wanted to do something to save this castle — our castle.

I can only hope that more of the MacDougall Clan has the opportunity to visit Gylen Castle — to stand where our ancestors fought for their home and feel the need to fight to save Gylen — our heritage!

Dunollie Castle sits on Oban and looks out onto the Isle of Kerrara. We had the pleasure of being escorted to Dunollie by Madame MacDougall, Chief of the MacDougalls. This is the castle that most people associate with the MacDougall Clan as it sits on a hill by Dunollie House — the house of the chieftain.

The picture of the Chief standing in front of Dunollie Castle is still etched in my mind. The proud look upon her face that said, "I am a MacDougall. These are my lands." And yet she took the time to walk with us to the castle. What a fascinating person. I can truly say that I felt humbled and honored at the same time.

We left for the Isle of Skye on Thursday, then on to Edinburgh and home to the States. I had looked forward to visiting other places, but as I look back on the trip, the days spent in Oban were the most memorable.

If you have the pleasure to visit Scotland, be sure to visit Oban and take the time to talk to the native MacDougalls. It will definitely be time well spent. As for me, I had the opportunity to visit Oban with my relatives — a type of family reunion. With my new family, I entered into a adventure, an adventure that ended too quickly.

Member Numbers Keep on Growing

Twenty-two members have joined the Clan MacDougall Society of the United States and Canada in the last year. You may find that a new member is a neighbor. If so, please make a special effort to welcome the family to the society.

Deborah Bryan Adams
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Deadline for Spring issue: April 1

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