



The Tartan

Clan MacDougall Society of North America

Volume 44, No. 3

Visit our webpage at: www.macdougall.org

Fall/Winter 2009

HOME COMING – THE MacDOUGALL WAY

by W. Troy McDougal

As you are probably aware, this year was marked by a huge return of Scots from around the world to return to Scotland for festivities on July 25, 2009 in Edinburgh, Scotland. The event was scheduled to coincide with the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, the Bard of Scotland, and included other events around Scotland for the entire year of 2009. The MacDougalls were an important part of the celebration with a walking theatre production entitled “The Hidden Jewel,” a flag ceremony and a dinner Ceilidh on Wednesday, July 22, before merging with the Gathering and march up the Royal Mile with the other Scots in Edinburgh on Saturday.

I had the opportunity to go to Scotland during the festivities with my wife Barbie, brother Todd, and sister-in-law Renita. We arrived in Scotland on Saturday July 18 and made our way to Oban on Tuesday, July 21. We knew from the website that we needed to check in at the Hope MacDougall Museum which was doubling as a box office for all of the events. Wednesday morning we went into downtown Oban and found the museum facing the bay on George Street. While it is true the museum is contained in a store front which was at one time obviously a jeweler, the MacDougall Trust has done a fantastic job of displaying a small portion of the collection in such a way as to capture your interest and you could easily spend hours looking at everything and reading the details. When you first enter, you are drawn to the display of the Brooch of Lorn replica with the silk-screened panels detailing the MacDougall history and the history of the brooch creating something of a shrine around it. We found out that the collection has a devoted website with many more details at www.hopemacdougallcollection.org.

After an all-too-brief visit, we found that Catherine Gillies was available and we got the first taste of the MacDougall hospitality which would follow us throughout our stay in Oban. I gave Catherine my name and email address and her face brightened and she greeted me as a long-lost relative whom she had known for years. We chatted for a while about how our trip was going so far, and what we planned to do for the remainder of the trip. We got all of the details for the rest of the events along with our tickets and we left the museum with mutual hopes to talk more at the Dinner.

Since time was short, we decided to go to Kilbride instead of Gylen on Wednesday. At Kilbride we were met by a gentleman who rode up on his bicycle and asked us if we were MacDougall's, we said we were. We found out this was Liam Griffin, the owner and self-appointed caretaker of Kilbride. It seems he always makes sure the visitors are MacDougalls to protect from any damage, either intentional or due to uninspired carelessness. Liam took us on a tour, showing us what is believed to be the grave of Ian Ciar as well as other notable graves, then he asked us if we were planning to go to the flag ceremony. Our plans included going to Ardchatten Priory before dinner and the next day was devoted to Gylen Castle, so we told him we probably would not make the ceremony. He responded, “Oh, that's too bad. Madam would like to have you there, I'm sure!” With such an invitation we couldn't argue; we made our way back to Dunollie.

The Editor's Desk



by Pat McDougall

Christmas is here, the trees and the grass are beautifully green! How in the world is Santa going to make his rounds without snow? I wish you all the rich blessings of a warm hearth, a full meal and a comfortable chair when the time comes to read this issue of *the Tartan*, filled with memories of "The Gathering" in Oban and Edinburgh! My thanks to my family for the article and photos.



Merry Christmas to all!

Yours aye,
Pat

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Membership in Clan MacDougall Society is
\$25.00 a year for those living in the U.S.

For more information write to:
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Marita A. MacDougall (Greenough) celebrates No 100

On Saturday August 29th a gathering of friends and relatives was held at West Gore NS to celebrate Marita's 100th birthday, which will be on October 12th 2009. Marita has been a Society member for many years.

Approximately 80 -90 were in attendance including 25 close family members, neices, nephews, cousins, coming from California, Australia, North Carolina, Maine, as well as Ottawa, Halifax, Dartmouth and West Gore area locally. Scheduled to run from 2 to 4 PM, Marita and friends were there until almost 5 o'clock.



Above: Marita with family of her nephew Graham MacDougall, (s/of late Austin E. MacDougall) wife Lauren and son Dominic Austin Arens MacDougall from Newcastle Australia.

(Submitted by Paul MacDougall, Montreal, QC)



You can buy from our new store location at
www.bill@macdougallstore.com



**The Tartan
Deadline Dates
for 2010**

Spring - March 15

Summer - July 15

Fall/Winter -
October 1

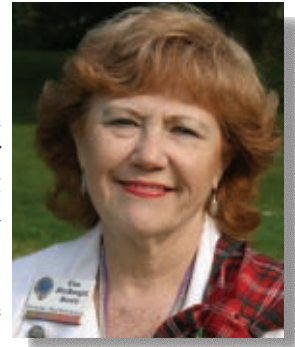
Welcome Our New President Elect...



Peter Clepper is the new President-Elect for the Clan MacDougall Society. His interest in Scotland comes from his mother and grandmother, both born in Ayrshire. He is a former long term Government employee who has travelled to Scotland several times since his retirement. He has been a member, board member and officer of the Gaelic Society of America, the Saint Andrews Society of Washington DC, and the Washington Classical Society. He lives in Bethesda, Maryland with a lot of books. 🍷

President's Message

I'd like to say how honored I am to be the first woman President of the Clan MacDougall Society. My main focus for the next two years will be increasing membership, supporting the Youth Scholarship Program, and encouraging support and involvement at Regional Games and Festivals. Nancy Kane is the new Chair of the Scholarship Committee and is always looking for donations to help support this worthwhile Society effort.



We now have a new Chaplain--Matt MacDougall - welcome Matt! And, a very hardy welcome to all new members of the Society. I'd like to encourage all members, old and new, to visit the web site: www.macdougall.org. Here you can learn more about Clan's History and visit the E-store. The E-store offers wonderful books with stories and history of MacDougall/MacDowall. There is also a variety of other merchandise from which to choose. The Board is currently looking for a person to Chair the E-store Committee. If interested, please contact me, singsan@aol.com or Bill Leroy at Bill@IrishSeaCeltic.com.

In closing, I'd like to encourage all members and friends to actively support your Regional Games and Festivals.

Yours aye,

Sandra :o)



Genealogy News

by Kevin Phelps, Society Genealogist



Over the last year the Society Genealogist has been answering many emails from the members and other interested individuals while periodically scanning the members genealogy information into electronic format image files from the paper documents sent in. Eventually, when we have the server equipment, a SQL database will be set up and everything we've scanned will be sent out to data entry volunteers on CD's. The volunteers will then manually key the imaged data into the database, which will also take a little time to do. After all is entered we can provide a direct link from our website where folks can query our data for information that can help to research their roots, track their heritage, find lost relatives, etc. We'll also set up links to other sites where they can verify our data or obtain other information from other sources.

The key to the data input and availability will be keeping the Society member information safe from unauthorized people. Knowing what information to allow others to see, and what to keep private from those that would / could take advantage of this information. We're going to insure that we do the best job possible to keep our member information safe and secure.

As far as a DNA project, to my knowledge we do not have one implemented as yet. If we do so, I would recommend waiting for a bit longer, maybe a couple of more years.

When DNA research projects began years ago they were very expensive, it was costing about \$1,000. per specimen reviewed. A couple of years ago it cost me \$300. to have my own DNA included in the project. With advances in this area of science and technology the cost will be significantly reduced in the next couple years so that nearly everyone can participate. The privacy issues involved is another reason to wait. Most folk participating in this project did not realize that when they signed a release form they gave permission to let a host of unnamed entities have the results of the DNA testing. These include drug companies, law enforcement agencies, governments, medical institutions and insurance companies. There are laws now being written to prevent this from happening in the future, but at this time there is no statute preventing it from happening.

If anyone is interested in a DNA project, I recommend reading the fine print on the waiver, related to who can and can not obtain the test results. 🍷

Scholarship Award

We are pleased to announce that **Beth Frieden** of Manchester, NH has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$620.00 from The John A. McDougall Memorial Scholarship Program of the Clan MacDougall Society of North America, Inc.

Ms. Frieden will use the grant as she attends the University of Strathclyde's Primary Education for Gaelic Speakers program, to obtain a teaching certification for Gaelic-medium education in Scotland 🍷

Scholarship News

Nancy Kane is the new chair of the Scholarship Committee. Funds are needed to fulfill the request for aid to continue this much needed program. 🍷

HOMECOMING – THE MacDOUGALL WAY

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At the grounds we met the group that was just getting ready to go from the lower garden to the middle garden in front of Dunollie House. At the middle garden, we had a great view of the side of the house which had been adorned with two large oak benches and P.A. equipment. The Oban Gaelic Choir entertained for a few minutes and



then we heard the sound of the clan piper, Donnie MacDougall, who led a procession out on the upper garden. Mike Robertson, the emcee, factor for the

Dunollie Estate and secretary of the MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust, announced Margaret MacDougall Carasik, the president of the MacDougall McCallum Heritage Foundation, who presented the two oak benches to Madam MacDougall. The two benches are made from two oak trees taken from the property and each bears a separate dedication. The first bench is dedicated “to honor Catherine Gillies for her dedication to the MacDougall Clan . . .” and the second bench “to honor the MacDougall Clan celebrating their past and their future 2009 Homecoming . . .”

Richard MacDougal, chair of the International Relations Committee of the Clan MacDougall Society of North America, Inc., gave a speech explaining the different flags permitted under heraldic law and the purposes for each. He further explained that the Society had been planning for years to present a standard which can fly from the castle. After fully researching the standard, the Society created the appropriate standard and presented it to Madam MacDougall. With this announcement, Claire Gillies, Catherine’s daughter, and Katie Baker removed the standard from the MacDougall tartan bag and held it out at full length. Madam Morag MacDougall of MacDougall, the thirty-first chief of the Clan MacDougall, graciously accepted the standard, expressing her pride in having this symbol to display and her gratitude to the Society and its membership for thinking so highly of her. The audience was invited to the refreshment tent while the officials went up to Dunollie Castle, lowered the 2009 Homecoming flag that was flying and replaced it with the standard. Upon the flag reaching the top and fully unfurling, Richard MacDougal yelled to the people below, “The flag is flying now.”

As the reception started to wind down, the final plans for the dinner were gearing up. Dinner was held at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Breadalbane Street, Oban. The evening began with wine and conversation in the large gathering hall outside the dining/dance hall. At the appointed hour, Catherine Gillies, who acted as emcee for this event, introduced Councillor Duncan MacIntyre JP of the Oban Council who welcomed everyone to Oban and congratulated the



Dunollie House

Clan MacDougall for being a prominent part of the 2009 Homecoming festivities. Following an additional welcome by Richard MacDougal, the guests were piped into the dining hall by Donnie MacDougall, the clan piper and his son, Donnie MacDougall who shows promise to succeed his father. The Clan MacDougall Society of North America was well represented, as well over half of the participants were from the United States. The meal of steak or salmon was served in true Scottish style with vegetables brought on separate plates for the guests to serve themselves. Also of interest is that they did not follow the distinctly American tradition of presenting a haggis (haggis is generally served for breakfast in Scotland). We enjoyed a lovely dinner with Liam and Myra Griffin who were the life of the table, and another couple and their two fine boys who were native Scots.

Following dinner, Catherine Gillies announced the beginning of a new initiative in the Clan MacDougall. The Chief has been contemplating the site at Dunollie and trying to find a way to make it more accessible to visitors, and also to incorporate an interpretive center where the Clan could display some of the heritage pieces in its collection. The castle will be preserved similar to Gylen castle and Dunollie house would be preserved and turned into the interpretive center. The plans also include walkways and additional parking. The



fundraiser is set at £1.8 Million and they had already raised over £35,000 from local efforts. The dinner formally marked the beginning of the international fundraising effort. Richard MacDougal responded by presenting the first international donation from the

Society in the amount of \$9,220.

Madam MacDougall accepted the donation with all the grace and poise of her position and gave Richard a gift of a silver goblet from her personal collection to bring back to the Society with hope that it would be used as a fitting award to encourage additional member participation. Following her acceptance, John Anderson MacDougall, president of the Clan MacDougall Society of the UK, took the floor and offered a toast to the health and prosperity of the Chief. The dinner ended with the sincere thanks of Madam Morag and an invitation to all present to come to tea the next morning at Dunollie house. The tables were cleared and the floor was set for the dance. Madam MacDougall could be seen gliding across the floor, most often with her husband, Richard Morely. To quote the late John A. McDougall, “a good time was had by all.”



We had planned to attend the walking play, *The Hidden Jewel*, on Thursday evening, but we decided to take advantage of the offer of tea and still had to visit Gylen Castle. When we got back from that excursion, we were not in any shape to hike up to Dunollie twice as required by the play. However the play was very well received by all who attended. The adventure, as it would be described by those attending, was written to make the audience participants in the reenactment of history. There is a wonderful synopsis and critique at <http://forargyll.com/2009/07/unforgettable-the-hidden-jewel-is-a-triumph/>.

We left the MacDougalls of Oban on Friday morning and joined them again in Edinburgh on Saturday afternoon at the Gathering. Madam Morag, Richard Morely, Robin MacDougall Morely and Catherine Gillies were all there working the tent as were several regional commissioners from the U.S. The Gathering was everything you could have imagined it to be. The march was divided into mustering times, but the security workers for the games decided not to follow that scheme and they told everyone they saw to go out to the gate of Holyroodhouse if they planned to march. As a result there was a sea of people waiting to be lined up. An early march official told us that they were dropping the “mac” from everyone’s names for purposes of alphabetizing the clans, so we fell between Donald and MacDuff. The only problem was there was no P.A. system to make this general announcement, so we didn’t know for sure if we had all the MacDougalls who wanted to march. At the appointed time, they opened the south gate to Holyroodhouse and began to space out the clans. The route went via the carriageway on the west side of Holyroodhouse and then turned through the west gate onto the Royal Mile. Taking this route, we were able to walk the entire Royal Mile, a privilege not offered to the general public.



Richard Morely and Madam MacDougall dance the Gay Gordons

The MacDougalls were lined up with me holding the sign, Richard Morely next to me holding the end of the standard, and Robin MacDougall Morely next to him holding the standard and wearing the replica of the Brooch of Lorn. Next was Madam MacDougall in the center holding the standard and wearing a plaid pin marking her position as chief – three eagle feathers surrounded by a buckle all done in silver, with Todd McDougal, Hendersonville, NC and a clan member from Nashville, TN completing the front row, each

holding the banner. From the time we passed the west gate of Holyroodhouse the route was lined with people. People were sitting on the roofs of the shorter buildings, hanging out of the windows of the taller buildings and standing on every step of every stair available, a truly amazing spectacle. All along the route we heard shouts of “Yea, MacDougall,” “Buadh No Bas” and “Conquer or Die.” People joined our group all along the way, including Catherine Gillies who was, at first somewhat reluctant, but gave in when it was clear the MacDougalls wanted to honor her for all her hard work. As we neared the top, the crowds were 4-5 deep and as tight as sardines and we were almost three times as many people marching.

The entire event was something I would never have missed. It helped me understand more about the stories my family has told me. There is no way to describe Oban with the bay and Kerrera, and I have yet to see a photo that captures the feeling of being there. I didn’t come away feeling more a MacDougall as that sense of pride came at my wedding which was full Scottish. But I did come away with a new appreciation for the history of the MacDougalls: To know that Oban has been that way for centuries, that people stayed at Gylen Castle while it was burning and died to stall the marauders long enough to protect the rest of the MacDougalls, to see Dunollie castle and tour Dunollie House with all of its history, artifacts and paintings, to meet Madam MacDougall and her family personally, and to be a part of modern-day history by walking in the first parade of tartans to march the royal mile in 187 years, and so much more. The events of that week also showed that the MacDougalls are as true today to their motto as they were in the Jacobite days; MacDougalls from all over the globe were ready to “conquer or die.” 🍷



Liam Griffin



Parade of Tartans

Photographers: Troy & Barbie McDougal



A Brief Note from Oban by T. Ashby McCown

Dick and I went on the Gylen Castle tour yesterday. The day was quite blustery with intermittent showers, which yielded light patters all over the spectrum and a backdrop of white water. The first view of the Castle in this light was breathtaking. We walked from the ferry to the castle with the Chief's son, Robin. Madame MacDougall was in the main, open, chamber when we arrived. Although I had not met her, or even seen a picture, her confident and gentle continence identified her as Chief of Clan MacDougall. She assiduously looked after Clan members on this trip, among other things rearranging ferry and shuttle schedules to accommodate a couple that had wandered astray to assure that they had time to see the Castle. Madame MacDougall, Robin, the lost couple, Dick & I walked back to the ferry togeth-

er, the last of the group to leave Kerrera.

That evening I went to the "Hidden Jewel," a theatrical performance reviewing scenes of MacDougall history from the conflict with Bruce to the return of the Brooch, while walking the grounds of Dunollie. Robin was there in kilt and walking stick as, I believe, part of the production. At the production's end, around 11:00 pm, with a sequence of images, ending with a vast sketched raven, projected onto the large white walls of Dunollie House, the cast thanked those who assisted the production and acknowledged the MacDougall line, noting the presence of Robin who "will be the 32nd Chief of Clan MacDougall". I confirmed this with Catherine Gilles the next morning as we were packing up for a tour to Dal Righ, Brander Pass and elsewhere.

I should have mentioned in the above note that I arrived early for the performance of *the Hidden Jewell* Monday evening, climbed to the courtyard in front of Dunollie, and read verse.

On Tuesday, Dick and I toured some noted sites in MacDougall history. Our guide was Lord Grey, whose ancestors apparently stood with Douglas on the slopes above the MacDougall forces at the Pass of Brander. He is also part Campbell. A gentle spoken man, to which Dick will attest, but a nice guy all the same.

We spent awhile at Saint Fillan's chapel to which Bruce headed after his defeat at Methven. Then to the site of the Battle of Dal Righ. The site that is marked as the battleground is a fairly open field, generating some discussion of just how constricted could Bruce's cavalry have been and could he have been surprised at all. The standard account is taken from Bruce's poet, Barbour. I am inclined to believe the battle was a somewhat larger engagement, in which the MacDougalls simply thrashed Bruce soundly. This is the tone one hears in the "Cronan" or "lullaby" included in the collection of Dugald Gordan MacDougall Gaelic poetry - by tradition sung by an old clansman to his granddaughter after the battle. The lullaby describes MacDougalls hijacking down the Campbells and Kilpatrick with their two edge swords and sneers: "De-la-Haye he would not stay..." Clans need poets.

Under the steep slopes of Brander Pass, among the bracken and cairns, the conventional account rings dreadfully true.

We arrived at Dunstaffnage as it was closing and found Todd who paused his photography momentarily to chat. I returned Thursday and found a remarkable castle. It has a kitchen to die for and not a half-bad chapel as well.

Wednesday was a day of formalities, but fairly easy going.

The afternoon ceremony was opened by Donald MacDougall from Seil - Piper to the Clan MacDougall - followed by several traditional songs, sung very well by the Oban Gaelic Choir. Dick presented a very attractive standard (20' by something narrow) to fly over Dunollie Castle, provided a good history of the effort to get the standard to Dunollie, and gave us descriptions of three of the four types of flags that can be flown over a chief's residence. The standard was raised on a tall pole over the Castle in front of a limited invited group, including some members of the North American Society. I was not in the group, but saw the standard from the road, as one must be able to see it from a very long distance out over the bay, flying proudly over the castle. The bright colors of the standard draw your eyes to Castle and show that there is life in Dunollie - it is not a mere outcropping of rock. 🍷



Photographer: Rob McDougall
www.robmcdougall.com



We were delighted to meet Clan members and friends at the Homecoming events at Dunollie - both at the House, at the Walking Theatre, the Dinner and Ceilidh and at the presentation of a very generous cheque from American clansfolk along with the new Standard which was hoisted at Dunollie Castle and looked grand flying in the wind.

We were pleased that some of you were able to follow us to Holyrood Park in Edinburgh where, along with many other Clans, we had our tent manned by ourselves and John Anderson McDougall, our U.K. Society President and also our associate Clan MacDowell.

Some of you joined a most memorable march of the Clans up the Royal Mile to the Castle to the cheers of folk lining the route. We held the Standard between us all the way, with the skirl of the pipes behind us.

We hope that you all enjoyed these Homecoming events, and send greetings to all who were unable to join us.

We wish you a very Happy Christmas and a blessed New Year

Yours aye,



Mary MacDougall of MacDougall



My Scottish kinsmen Michael McDowall of Edinburgh and Ted McDowell from Ayshire very much enjoyed sharing the MacDougall and MacDowall tent at "The Gathering '09 in Edinburgh and with your Chief and family. Sandy and I send our best wishes to all Family and Clan members for happiness at Christmas.



Fergus

Fergus MacDowall of Garthland



Richard MacDougall's presentation at Dinner July 22, 09 Oban, Scotland

Madam MacDougall, Project Director Catherine Gillies, distinguished guests, MacDougall clan-folk, friends:

While our celebration today is not the end, but only an early stage in the grand and wonderful scheme to renovate Dunollie for the use and appreciation of MacDougall clanfolk, it certainly is a red letter day and high water mark in the process.

To celebrate more than 2 years of hard work by the leaders in Oban, and the overlapping terms of office of 2 Presidents and officers of Clan MacDougall Society of North America, I am deeply honored and prideful to be delegated by the American Clan Society to present this check to the Dunollie Trust for \$9,220.00 dollars! 🍷



The
Clan MacDougall Society
of North America

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Your member number and dues year are
printed above your name and address.*



NEW MEMBERS

*Welcome to the newest members of
The Clan MacDougall Society of North America!*

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Dunollie Castle flying the
MacDougall standard

Scenes from MacDougall Country
Homecoming 2009

View of Oban Bay from Dunollie House gardens

Photographer: Troy McDougal