

The Tartan

Clan MacDougall Society of North America

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NOVEMBER 2011

Decisions in 2011 Board Meeting include rotating AGM location

Once again, the Board of Directors convened at the Eseeola Lodge in Linville, North Carolina, on July 8, preceding the Annual General Meeting and Dinner. The Treasurer announced that finances are in good order and that at least \$4,000 was available for donating to the MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust. President Peter Clepper expected to be in Scotland in September; he offered to convey a check (see separate article).

It is clear that no one is willing to undertake management of a MacDougall Society Store, due to the heavy responsibility involved. It was decided to liquidate the remaining inventory.

Continuing a discussion from last year, it was agreed that the annual Board meeting would continue at Grandfather Mountain. The Annual General Meeting, however, will be held at different places. Heartland Commissioner Kevin Phelps had previously offered to host such a meeting at the Saint Andrews Games in Livonia, Michigan, in early August 2012. Suzanne McDougal and Peter Clepper volunteered to attend these games in 2011 to initiate planning.

A recurring question has related to the Society's dual nature – the MacDougall and MacDowall relationship. Walter Macdougall sent a rationale for this unusual arrangement, which the Board gratefully accepted. His statement is included in this issue.

This meeting marked the end of her term as President for Sandra MacDougall. The Board noted her devoted service, her personal and affectionate friendship for each and all. The new elected officers are Peter Clepper, President; Malcolm MacDougall, President Elect; Don MacDougall, Treasurer; Jeanne MacDougall, Secretary; and Bill Leroy, Recording Secretary/Archivist.

REACHING OUT TO CURRENT AND NEW MEMBERS:

Society Launches New Facebook Page



In a nod to the reach of technology and social networking, the Clan MacDougall Society of North America's Facebook page is growing quickly with nearly 200 people "liking" the page to date, and 600 "users". We've been growing at a rate of five-to-ten people per week with visitors from as far away as the United Kingdom, Argentina, Australia, Switzerland, Russia, and South Africa as well as the United States and Canada. People have found our page on notable sites like macdougall.org, Google, and Bing!

The page is administered by Keith Place, with support from David MacDougall and Malcolm MacDougall. We have started sub-groups on the page for Highland Dancers in the Society, coordinated by our champion dancer Erin McDougal Bartow, and for State Representatives. We are hoping that these groups will build a network within the Clan among people with similar interests to share their knowledge, seek advice, establish friendships, and learn from each other. As these groups grow, more will be added.

News of upcoming events and pictures are regularly shared as well. We also have listed groups and businesses that may be of interest to our members. From kilt makers to leather workers to artisans and musicians we can spread the word of quality craftsmanship and services of Celtic and Scottish interest, and support the culture we love

—Keith Place, Facebook Administrator

Fine Dining and Casual Feasting Celebrated with Song

Neither rain nor a gloomy economy could dampen the mood at our annual dinner at Eseeola Lodge. Those who attended were treated to a wonderful evening, highlighted by the beautiful and fun-filled performance of our own professional balladeer Richard Van Valkenburgh.

The haggis was paraded in behind champion piper Bill Caudill and honored with a stirring Address delivered by Jeanne MacDougall.

As always, awards were a special highlight of both the AGM and the Dinner. For 2010, Beacham McDougald received the Somerled, and Sheila McDowell received the Appreciation Award. Beacham is from Laurinburg, North Carolina, where he has organized and directed the Laurinburg–Oban High



Judy MacDougall and Suzanne McDougal enjoy the reception preceding the Annual Dinner.



Beacham McDougald, Peter Clepper and Nancy Van Valkenburgh proceed to dinner in the Eseeola Lodge.



Jack Kane holds the haggis as Jeanne MacDougall addresses the "great chieftain o' the pudding-race."

Beacham's tact and persistence. For the second consecutive year, the lovely and lively Chelsea House Orchestra lingered briefly to serenade, bringing a beautiful day to a beautiful

conclusion. (Special Note: The group has agreed to give us their full attention by formally contracting to perform for us at next year's barbeque. This assures a



The delightful Chelsea House Orchestra performs Celtic music during Pork Campbell's barbeque. They have agreed to perform throughout next year's BBQ.

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complete performance while we dine—so don't miss this special Saturday afternoon MacDougall event at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games 2012!)

From Our President

It is a distinct honor to have been chosen to lead our Society and to follow in the steps of our eminent



former presidents, especially Sandra MacDougall, on whose support and counsel I rely. My first task in early August was the enjoyable one of attending the 162nd Highland Games in Livonia, Michigan. Our commissioner Kevin Phelps and his wife Sandy put on an outstanding display that attracted visitors all day long. He and Sandy will be our hosts at next year's Annual General Meeting. We will have more news about this event as plans mature.

In late September I was able to spend a week in Scotland. I visited Catherine Gillies, the project director for the MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust. There is a great deal involved in turning the elegant Dunollie House of our Chief Morag MacDougall of MacDougall into an institutional museum, visitor center, and archive. Catherine has the work well in hand. I brought with me our Society's donation of four thousand dollars, which I presented to one of the Trust officers, Mr. Alasdair Oates. This amount will support a professional archivist who will train volunteers in arranging and preserving a truly amazing collection of documents and pictures. Ashby McCown, friend and fellow member, worked on these materials as a volunteer this summer. Catherine is now assembling resources to improve the archive room to meet approved standards of preservation, such as climate control.

Sometime ago, we contributed a flag, our standard, to fly above the castle. Unfortunately it was stolen just a few days after it was first hoisted. I am pleased that my colleagues on the Board have agreed to allocate funds to replace it. Doing so is a gesture of appreciation to our Chief whose guiding role has been so important for this vital project.

We were sorry to receive James McDowell's resignation as Pennsylvania State Representative and Mid-Atlantic Regional Commissioner. He has done much in support of the Clan MacDougall Society; on behalf of the Board of Directors, we want to express our sincere appreciation.

And, just to show what I look like, here is a picture of myself at our meeting, holding the president's flag.

Mise le meas,

Peter

Highland Games at Livonia, Michigan - Our Next AGM Venue

This year was the 162nd Games sponsored by the Saint Andrews Society of Detroit. They took place on August 6 in the beautiful Greenmead Historical Park in suburban Livonia. They were well attended, especially during these times of economic hardship for so many. Quite a few came from Canada. All in all, there were many MacDougalls, many of whom attend these games regularly.

Our regional representative Kevin Phelps and his wife Sandy put on an outstanding tent and display. They have been active in numerous Scottish organizations and activities, so that the Games Committee always reserves a special place for our tent. There were numerous visitors all day long. Other clans have copied Kevin's tent design, notably Clan Campbell, whose place was next to ours. Nice to know that on this side of the water it's all pals together.

We had long discussions about having our AGM here in 2012. Kevin and Sandy combine enthusiasm with experience in hosting other events. Now that Suzanne McDougal and I have had a chance to meet them and see what it is all like I think we can arrange a fine meeting, with a banquet. The nearby hotel, an Embassy Suites, offers special rates for the Games and has excellent facilities for us. More about this later, as plans progress.

—Peter Clepper



Neighbor Mark Fisher (Clan Campbell) with our Heartland Commissioners Kevin and Sandy Phelps at the Livonia Games.



As always, the Phelps put up one of the finest tents you have ever seen.

A Report on Events at Oban and Dunollie

From Ashby McCown at the Oban Games

I joined the spectators near the square in front of the train station sometime after 10:00. At 10:30, screaming police cars began to clear the roads before the pipe band as it moved out toward the playing fields above Oban. The band was followed by dignitaries, of whom the most important were, of course, our Chief Morag, her husband Richard, and their son, our Tàiniste, Robin. Morag wore a skirt in the Modern MacDougall tartan. Richard was in a kilt of the Ancient tartan. Robin wore the new (or original) Heritage MacDougall tartan. Spectators fell in behind the pipes and dignitaries as they passed, the procession filling the street and growing in length as it moved through Argyll Square, up past the Oban Parish Church, and on to the playing fields.



Robin MacDougall in the Heritage tartan

The games were extremely satisfying. Those in kilts included a significant number of MacDougalls. The sporting events were good and fun. There were numerous youth events with many participants. The heavy events seemed professional to my untrained eye. There were a large number of good participants tossing the caber—most of whom got it over and within an hour of “12:00”.

The Heritage Center tent contained the Dunollie Project table, displaying the Heritage MacDougall tartan, and tables of a number of other organizations: the Ùlpan method of teaching Gàidhlig, Kilmartin House Museum, Lorn Historical and Archaeological Society, Glasgow and West of Scotland Family History Society, Lismore Heritage Centre (or Ionad Naomh Moluag as it is properly known) the Scottish Association of Marine Science, Oban Distillery, War and Peace Museum, Inverawa Smokehouse, and a

North Argyll communities association.

The tables provided an impressive depth of information on the region and culture—our region and culture. The Dunollie Project had a remarkable coverage at its table, with the Project Director Catherine Gillies (a leading authority on Highland Revival costume); Sales and Marketing Manager Breege Smyth; and Peter MacDonald, Chief Researcher for the Scottish Tartans Authority (the world’s leading expert on the history of tartan and a regular attendee at Stone Mountain) answering floods of inquiries on the Heritage Tartan as well as esoteric inquiries about other issues in the textile arts. As you might imagine, I

spent a fair amount of time at the Gaelic, Argyll Archaeology, and Kilmartin Museum tables. I also had a chance to speak with a young woman who has just finished a year at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. Catherine is encouraging her to do some scholarly work on the poems of Dugald Gordan MacDougall.

The afternoon events in the Heritage Tent were quite impressive. Free samples of Oban 14 and smoked salmon. Performances by the Oban and Oban High School Gaelic choirs. Two short dramatic pieces: one dramatizing the

losses of homes, gravesites and cultural environment occasioned by the construction of a furnace, ending by welcoming the visits from foreign lands of those whose families left so the glens would once more echo with proud Scottish clan names. The other piece dramatizing the story (in English with Gaelic introduction and background) of a Gaelic lament for one of the fallen at the Battle of Inverloch (Blàr Inbhir Lochaidh). Excellent fiddle and clarsach players!



The MacDougall Heritage Tent at the games, with the project director, Catherine Gillies. Notice the examples of the new Heritage tartan.



Richard Morley, husband of Chief Morag, and Ashby McCown at Oban.

UPDATE

Dunollie House

A visit by President Peter Clepper

It was good fortune that brought me to Oban on the last week of September. The weather was excellent, the castle imposing, and Dunollie House, as always, beautiful. We all owe enormous gratitude to our Chief for undertaking the great task of making the house and castle a true center for our clan, as a museum, learning center, and archive. These formal terms do not convey the sense of welcome and wonder that this house and its marvelous collections offer. As the project unfolds, it will offer to others in addition to our clan new and exciting perspectives on Scottish social history.

The project is in the hands of the MacDougall of Dunollie



Peter Clepper presents the check from our North American Society to Alasdair Oates of the Dunollie Preservation Trust.

Preservation Trust. Catherine Gillies is the project director; she is well equipped by training and experience, and certainly aptitude, for this labor. She was a wonderful guide, everything at her fingertips. She kindly arranged a late morning tea in the house drawing room, where I was able to present our Society's \$4,000 contribution to these efforts. Alasdair Oates, the Trust officer, plays an active role; he pointed out that the project is strongly endorsed by the city of Oban.



Dunollie House

The Charleston Scottish Games and Highland Gathering



Dancer Cheryl McDougal Bartow and family, with Buzzy Bramble and Keith Place (in center) at the Charleston Games.

The Charleston Games were held on Saturday, September 17. The day started as a brisk, cool day with fog and overcast. It almost felt like Scottish weather! Buzzy Bramble and Keith Place set the clan tent up with a gorgeous display of tartans, banners, and flags, but the biggest hit of the day? Gutsy Smurf, whose tartan looks convincingly similar to the MacDowall Tartan. Erin McDougal Bartow displayed her usual excellence on the Highland

Dance stage, taking home three awards, including Dancer of the Day. David and Carol McDougal were both recognized as past presidents of the Charleston Games. We even found a long lost Clansman in a sword that now carries ashes of Mad Max MacDougall. Altogether, it was a wonderful day to celebrate our Scottish Heritage.

—Keith Place

RATIONALE FOR THE CLAN MACDOUGALL SOCIETY'S JOINT REPRESENTATION OF THE

MacDougalls of Lorn and the Macdowalls/McDowells of Galloway



Early on in the development of the Society it was recognized that there were two “heritages” involved in the growing membership. In an article appearing in *The Tartan* in the Spring of 1967 (Vol. 1, 4, p.5), one finds the following observation: “At the moment it is not apparent what the relationship is between the MacDougalls of Lorn and the MacDougalls of Makerstoun.” (This question was not unimportant as the principal founders of the Clan MacDougall Society were descended from the MacDougalls of Makerstoun.)

The question remained unresolved within the Society as late as 1970–1971 when *The Tartan* carried a three-part article, the first installment of which was entitled “Lorn vs. Makerstoun.” This series concludes in regard to the relationship between the MacDougalls of Lorn and of Makerstoun that “Perhaps one day genealogy may solve the riddle on which history is so mockingly silent.”

While there are still questions on specific genealogical relationships, the following facts are clear. The MacDougalls of Makerstoun descended from the Macdowalls of Garthland, who in turn represent the Ancient Lords of Galloway, a royal lineage long prominent in the history of Scotland.

There are interesting genealogical connections between the Macdowalls/McDowells/ MacDougalls of Galloway and the MacDougalls of Lorn. However, they are distinct both historically and by present official recognition by the Lord Lyon. Both are headed by their own hereditary chiefs who bear their own arms and title. Both have their own heritage

and distinctive roles in the history of Scotland. There existed, especially during the so-called “Wars of Independence,” an alliance between the two noble houses of Lorn and Galloway against common enemies.

The leadership and membership of the Clan MacDougall Society has dealt with the issue of dual representation in various ways. The most flawed assumption has been that the Macdowalls/McDowells were, by virtue of their surname, a “sept” of the MacDougalls of Lorn. If a person's genealogy is that of the Galloway McDowells (however spelled), or branches thereof, then this is not the case. A second mistaken view has been that the appearance of MacDougall/McDowell surnames in Galloway simply represented displaced families from Argyll. Perhaps the most prevalent method of dealing with the dual heritage within the Society's membership was to adopt a policy of “the less said about this situation the better.” However, by following this policy a Society dedicated to bringing to its membership “the proud heritage of good Scottish ancestry” instead participates in submerging the heritage of a considerable portion of the membership.

This issue became focused during the society presidency of Walter M. Macdougall. An obvious solution was to encourage the Macdowalls/McDowells to form their own society. Considering that many of the leadership as well as the general membership in the Society were McDowells (however spelled) with Galloway genealogies, President Macdougall argued that such a solution would simply create two weakened clan societies. He strongly

urged that the old, historical alliance between the MacDougalls of Lorn and the Macdowalls/McDowells of Galloway be “reinstigated” and that the Society continue in common purpose and in recognition of the two rich heritages involved. This proposition was supported by Madam Coline MacDougall of MacDougall and by Fergus Macdowall of Garthland the two Clan Chiefs directly involved.

The solution, therefore, became one of recognizing that the Society represented two Clan families and that it did so in common purpose and in recognition of two rich and goodly heritages. In 1983, Fergus MacDowell of Garthland wrote a two-part feature on the Macdowalls of Galloway for *The Tartan*, and the Society's Board of Directors voted Fergus MacDowell, first, honorary vice president and, later, honorary president of the Society, taking a place alongside Madam MacDougall of MacDougall. The Clan Crest of the Macdowalls of Garthland (and thus of all McDowells of Galloway) along with that of the MacDougalls of Lorn appeared on the letter head of the Society and upon its brochures. The aim of this alliance was most recently celebrated in the Society's publication of *The MacDowalls*.

In summary, the rationale for the joint representation of two Clan families by the Clan MacDougall Society of North America rests in the conviction that the purposes of both can be better served by their combined strength and through a joint celebration of the two heritages that have interconnections at so many points.

—Walter Macdougall, July, 2011

CEREMONY PAYS TRIBUTE TO Scottish-American Hero

A nearly-forgotten hero of the American Revolution was honored recently in ceremonies on Scotland's Isle of Islay where he was born in 1732.



Alexander McDougall

Alexander McDougall, who immigrated with his family to New York at the age of six and rose from poverty to become a leader in the Revolution, was remembered at festivities on his home island attended by local citizens and world leaders. The occasion was dedication of a memorial that heralds McDougall's rise to prominence in New York from sailor to major general and statesman.

Lord George Robertson, also a native of Islay (population 3,200) who was Secretary General of NATO, helped to establish the monument which details McDougall's feats. Quoting from the book, *American Revolutionary: A Biography of General Alexander McDougall*, Robertson noted that McDougall was a "milkman's son who helped to found a nation, [and] blazed a trail across the American Revolutionary Scene like a meteor."

Robertson noted that "here is an amazing story of a boy from Islay who in his twenties became the captain of two privateering warships, was afterwards a successful New York merchant, and, when the revolutionary tide started to flow was a key agitator and street leader" who became "a hero in Britain's 13 American colonies. He then became a soldier who rose to the highest rank in the American Army in just three years, serving under General George Washington."

In the war's first major action, the Battle of Long Island, the American Army was facing defeat along the East River in New York. Washington, in desperation, asked ex-sailor McDougall to return across the river to Manhattan Island and round up his seaman friends and their small boats to rescue the Americans. They succeeded, and when the British awoke the next morning, all of the American Army, including its horses and guns, had vanished—to Manhattan.

It was a defeat for the Americans, but saving the American Army to fight again instead of being captured is a feat compared by some to the British Army's evacuation from Dunquerque (Dunkirk), France, in World War II. Some scholars believe the American Revolution might have died prematurely had it not been for the bravery of McDougall and his colleagues.

McDougall led his troops in other battles, and even while he was in military service, was elected to the Continental Congress. He became first Minister of the Marine (which became Secretary of the Navy) and commanded West Point, now America's college for the training of Army officers. George Washington called McDougall "a pillar of the Revolution."

Observed Lord Robertson: "*The milkman's son from Islay did well, indeed.*"

—William MacDougall

Flowers of the Forest



Our member Colin MacDougall passed away at age 93 in Bracebridge, Ontario in June 2011 after a brief illness. A truly kind and generous gentleman, he is sadly missed by his family, his church, and his community. Colin believed in quietly supporting many worthy causes including our Society's Dunollie Preservation Fund and our previous Gylen castle project. He was proud of his Scottish heritage and of his clan. Whenever I thanked him for donating to our Society's Scholarship fund he would say "you have got to help the young get a start in life." He believed in quietly doing good and not talking about it. That is how he lived and that is how those who knew him will remember him.

—Scott MacDougall

We were recently notified by Malcolm Patterson that his father DeWitt MacDougall Patterson, a long-time member in the Mid-Atlantic Region, passed away on May 12, 2011. "Pat" was born in 1917 and graduated from the Naval Academy in 1939. He participated in the 1994 "MacDougall Tour" of Scotland and in many Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walks. He was a faithful MacDougall and a good man.

—Peter Clepper

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A Report from 2011:

Antigonish Highland Games

The Antigonish Highland Society, which has sponsored the Antigonish Highland Games since 1861, is celebrating its 150th birthday this year. The society was formed August 22, 1861 by a group of Gaelic speakers who wanted to preserve their language and Scottish traditions.

There is a remarkable collection of activities during the week in early July. The official schedule included: highland hikes, the Gathering of the Arts Grand Opening, a family square dance, kilted golf tournaments, a pastoral airs concert, a grand street parade, a scavenger hunt, licensed ceilidhs, Natalie MacMaster in Concert, and a concert under the stars. Rain forced Natalie MacMaster to move to the Keating Millenium Center. The traditional outdoor Gaelic Concert took place Sunday afternoon, the 10th.

Thursday, the 7th, was MacDougall Day. MacDougalls were piped to the MacDougall Cairn by Martin MacDonald. Shirley MacDougall, President of the Clan MacDougall Society of Antigonish, presided over the ceremony, attended by around 25 people, young and old. The invocation was given by John R. MacDougall. Debbie Helm described MacDougall heritage *anns an t-seann Dùthaich* (the Old Country) and in Antigonish County, including history of a number of Antigonish families. Martin piped a lament for Florence Helm, Debbie's mother, who died June 27, 2011, a week before the Antigonish games, 92 years



old. The ceremony closed with a Gaelic reading of "Laoidh an Iasgair" ("The Fisherman's Hymn"), a blessing of the Eriskey fleet by the great Gaelic poet Father Allan McDonald. The MacDougalls then retired to the John Paul Center for refreshment.

The games were wet, but the competition did not seem abated. There was good participation of fine athletes, in particular in the Heavy Events youth competition.

The Gaelic BBQ in Pictou on Thursday evening was a wonderful place to meet old chums, hear the language of Eden spoken, and listen to Catriona Parsons sing songs from her new album. The sun came out for the outdoor Gaelic Concert in Glendale Sunday afternoon and the excellent performers continued on stage well after the scheduled close of the concert.

—Ashby McCowan