

The Tartan

The Clan MacDougall Society of North America
VOLUME 48, ISSUE 1 MAY 2014

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Meet the new board members
- MacCowans in Lorn
- Sir Walter Scott's Scottish stories

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President's Message

President's View of the Society

This summer is a good time to offer you, our members, a fairly comprehensive overview of our organization—its health, our work in progress and where we believe we are headed. I believe we are in many ways at a crossroads in our Society. I hope I can give you a sense of what I mean and why I think it's both a challenge for all of us and a great opportunity.

A refresher: the Purposes of the Society You haven't memorized the Society's Bylaws? I'm not shocked nor am I recommending you grab a copy. But our founders crafted a document that has guided us for nearly 50 years. I think one of the most significant sections of our Bylaws is at the very beginning where they stated the purposes of the organization. I don't think everyone is aware of these "stated purposes" and I think you'll agree that the founders and their successors have tried hard to live up to them. Here's a paraphrasing:

1. Distribute information on Scottish history, literature, the Clan MacDougall and our historic sites.
2. Preserve our literary, historical and genealogical records, documents, and relics.
3. Encourage visits to Scotland, specifically Dunollie and Gylen Castles.
4. Assist in the upkeep of Dunollie.
5. Establish scholarships, fellowships, awards, prizes, and other methods of financial assistance at colleges, other appropriate institutions, or to deserving students.
6. Perpetuate Scottish traditions and customs and promote Clan pride and member interaction.
7. Other literary, historical, educational, or other activities determined by the Board of Directors.

Whatever we do should reflect those purposes and almost always does.

Growth: What's it worth? I don't think anyone believes we should be growing in numbers just for the sake of growing. Last I checked, we're not mobilizing for battle or competing in a sales contest. There's no mention of "growth" in the seven purposes of the Society. We focus on growth for two main reasons. First, because it's certainly implied that we should be sharing our heritage and traditions with potential new members. Next, because more members enable us to increase support for the causes listed in the Clan "purposes." Without growth, budgets for scholarships, Dunollie support, communications to members and all else would slow to a trickle. In speaking with many members in recent years, I'm told they joined as much for the good works of the Society as for pride of clan membership.



President's Message (cont)

So where are we? Here's an area where we really are at a crossroads. On the one hand, we've had a strong influx of new members over the past 20 months. Clan MacDougall uses new technologies to reach more people than ever. Members now sign up online as well as at games. We strongly promote membership on our MacDougall website (www.macdougall.org), our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/clanmacdougall) and Twitter account (@Clan_MacDougall). We've had great success with new member promotions. People who sign up at games get their first year's membership at half-price. People can sign up extended family members at half-price for their first year. The Board has approved a discount for people signing up or renewing membership online. In speaking with other clans, I don't think any other clans surpass us in the number of new members over the past two years.

On the other hand, we continue to lose people who don't renew their membership. We have many people who are in arrears. For some, they're just no longer interested. I'm sure some others just put off paying dues, keep forgetting, and then never get around to it. Whatever the reason, the result is that we actually continue to lose ground in overall membership—and our budgets shrink. That means that we can only do less. Fortunately, some people help offset the reduced revenues with generous donations. But it's not enough to offset what has become a big problem with arrears—and the problem has been with us for more than five years, since the depths of the Great Recession. We need people to stay current.

New: Special Benefits for Active Members The Society is responding to the membership problem by adding value to active (paid) membership. This is a real balancing act. We need to reach out to that universe of nonmembers who qualify to join the Society. However, the Board has come to agree there also should be some special benefits or privileges for those who pay their membership dues which, incidentally, are still only \$25 a year.

Here are some new member-only benefits, and the Board is adding more:

- Subscription to The Tartan
- Monthly e-newsletter
- Access to the member-only section of our website, containing archived issues of The Tartan, informational blogs on heritage, history, travel.
- Some genealogical assistance and, ultimately, access to the Society's genealogical database.

There's only so much we can do to entice, beg or reward. Most annual and life members belong because they have great pride in their heritage, want to share it and want to support the Society's endeavors.

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President's Message (cont)

Looking for New Leadership The work of the Society continues and we need new leaders stepping up. The Society is governed by the Board of Directors, consisting of 18 members. Every year there is an election. We're looking for new people to run for office.

We're especially looking for volunteers to fill some very critical regional and local leadership vacancies. Increasingly we believe that the real strength and future of our organization is at that grassroots level. Yet we have many positions that need to be filled and many of those have been vacant for more than several years. I believe we must fill those slots for Clan MacDougall Society to continue to carry out its mission.

Please see the accompanying article about leadership vacancies, and please consider volunteering or suggesting someone to fill one of those positions. It's not nearly the amount of work you might suspect and there are many people prepared to assist you.

Of course, if you can't or don't want to help lead, I urge you to please follow our progress and proceedings, and offer your opinions and ideas. Your suggestions are highly valued.

Easy way to participate: This year's AGM, July 12--wherever you are! This year, you can actively participate in the Annual General Meeting just by going on to the internet. In another example of Clan MacDougall innovation, we will webcast or stream our AGM live from the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in North Carolina this year. The meeting will be late Saturday afternoon, July 12. We will publish instructions on how to log into and participate in the meeting on the clan website. Please keep checking.

However, we really hope you can attend the Grandfather Games in person this year. It's your opportunity to attend one of the largest Scottish gatherings in North America and join fellow clansfolk at the Society's annual Founders Dinner on Friday evening July 11 and our BBQ and Annual Meeting on Saturday afternoon July 12.

Looking ahead: Your input is needed This is your Society. What else should we be doing? What should our focus be as we move forward? What other benefits should we offer to active members?

Next year will be the 50th anniversary of the Clan MacDougall Society of N.A. What do we want the Society to look like as we begin our second half century? What should its role be in the lives of the many people who share their pride in our heritage?

Send us your thoughts. Better yet, consider donating some of your time, talent and passion to our work and growth. It's time for a new—but not exclusively younger--generation of leadership to begin carrying the work of the Society. I invite you to be a part of it in whatever way you choose.



MacDowall

New Board Members

Following the Society's nomination process this past spring six members were elected by the Board. Two members continue long service on the Board and four are new. All have been actively involved in Clan MacDougall activities, often for many years.

Sarah W. Hereford
Huntsville, Alabama

Sarah Wilkinson Hereford is a Certified Public Accountant and owned a firm for seventeen years. She is now Vice-President of Finance for Van Valkenburgh & Wilkinson Properties, Inc. She has served many civic and business organizations in various volunteer capacities including being president of the Tennessee Valley Scottish Society, Huntsville Symphony Orchestra Guild, Gothic Guild, Historic Huntsville Foundation, Huntsville Pilgrimage Association and the Huntsville Financial and Estate Planning Council among others. She currently serves on her Church Leadership Team, the Burritt Memorial Committee, the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra Board of Trustees and the HSO Foundation. She and her husband, Tom Douglas Hereford, have one adult son and are active members of First United Methodist Church.

She has been a member of Clan MacDougall Society since about 1979, attending all but about three Grandfather Mountain Highland Games since that time. She has served as Alabama Representative for a number of years and as a member of the scholarship committee for the past two years. In 1974, during a trip to Scotland, Sarah and her cousin visited Madam Coline MacDougall at Dunollie House.

Bill Leroy
Frankfort KY

Long term Board member (since 1995), former Treasurer, and former President. He currently maintains the Society membership database and develops budget and other reports for the AGM. He is the membership committee chair, chairs the investment committee and serves as assistant treasurer. His long years of active participation establish him as an unofficial Society historian. He received the Somerled Award in 2001.

He volunteers and actively serves numerous organizations, including five Scottish ones. In 2012 he received the Governor's Citation for volunteer service.

Don MacDougall
Reston, Virginia

Don was born Parker Donald MacDougall on April 4, 1939. He grew up in Waltham, Massachusetts and joined the Army in 1955. Don retired as an Army Major in 1979 and settled in the Washington DC area. His second career was as an executive with several technology companies supporting commercial and U.S. government clients.

In June 1973 while Don was in the military and stationed in Germany, he and his wife took a vacation to England. They toured the middle and northern area of England and with some time left decided

New Board Members (cont)

that a trip to Scotland was in order. Looking at the guide books they found that the MacDougall name came from the area around a town named Oban. (His father's family was from New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. Don's mother was a Campbell and her heritage began on the Isle of Skye).

In 1989, Alan MacDougall invited Don to the Alexandria Ball that opened the Alexandria, VA Scottish games that year. Two years later at the Alexandria Games Don and his wife met Dan MacDougall who was the newly appointed Regional Commissioner. He set up the tent and asked for help. Don volunteered to help and that was the beginning of his involvement with the Clan MacDougall Society.

Appointed Virginia State Representative in 1992 Don attended more and more games and in 1995 he and Sandra took over from Dan MacDougall as Co-Commissioners of the Mid Atlantic Region. In 1995 they attended the Regional gathering and dinner in Toronto. Their first trip to Grandfather Mountain and the AGM was in 1995. Don was nominated to First Vice president in 2003 and served as president of the Society from 2006 to 2008. He currently serves as Treasurer for the Society.

Christopher MacDougall
Bracebridge, Ontario, Canada

Prior to becoming active with the Society, Chris was a volunteer with the Bracebridge Arts Council in his hometown of Bracebridge, Ontario, as it concluded the building of a new theatre. He is now a member of the Public Library board. Currently he works as an instructor at Georgian College, a community college, but has taught at elementary, secondary and post-secondary education levels. He also volunteers as a hockey referee and as the Clans Official, web page Site Administrator, and as an organizer for the Bracebridge Highland Games.

He began to represent the Clan MacDougall Society in 2008 by putting on our clan tent at local Highland Games in Bracebridge, Ontario, and has since expanded his participation. In 2009 he became the Ontario Provincial Representative for the Society. In 2012 he attended the Board of Directors meeting at Grandfather Mountain and made a Vimeo presentation about his trip and Society events, which you may have viewed at <https://vimeo.com/47793700>. Since April 2013, he has served as Ontario Regional Commissioner for the Society with two Provincial Representatives.

He created graphics for the Clan MacDougall International Gathering in 2014, updating the Society's regional map for the cover of its new Society Handbook, adapting the MacDougalls of Lorn PowerPoint CD presentation to a DVD format in English, French and Spanish (which is currently being finalized), served on the Society's web site committee, operated the Society's Twitter account, wrote the Raven's Call newsletter for Ontario members of the Society, and promoted MacDougall/MacDowall heritage in Canada by creating the website www.macdougall-macdowall.ca.

Edward Joseph McDougall, Sr.
Brooksville, Florida

He was born on Staten Island, NY. He graduated from Port Richmond High School and volunteered and served honorably for three years as a Military Policeman in the Army of the United States (1955 – 1958). He was in the employ of Procter &



MacDougall

New Board Members (cont)

Gamble Mfg. Co. for the next 11 years, serving in their clerical staff and as supervisor of security and fire protection at its Port Ivory, Staten Island plant. In 1969 he moved to Dunedin, FL and served on the Dunedin Police Dept. He attended Tampa College (18 mos.) in Clearwater, FL and majored in Business Administration. In 1975 he was accepted into the U.S. Treasury Dept., I.R.S. as a tax auditor in St. Petersburg, FL. He was later was accepted into the Collection Division as a Revenue Officer where he served in Sarasota, FL until retirement in 1996.

John McDowall
Warrenton, Virginia

He was born and raised in Monticello, NY. He graduated from Monticello High School and accepted an appointment to the US Naval Academy. Upon graduation, he was commissioned in the United States Marine Corps and served 11 years on active duty. During this time, he completed a Master's Degree through Boston University. Since leaving the Marines, he has worked as a contractor designing information systems for a variety of agencies within the Department of Defense and other government agencies. He is currently pursuing a doctorate in Information Technology. He has been married for nearly 25 years to the former Michele Stewart of Fallsburg, NY. They have two daughters, aged 18 and 21.

His primary interests are in developing a better understanding of Scottish history and culture, as well as researching the family tree prior to his grandfather's emigration to the United States. He has recently become active in maintaining the Society's web site and assisting with formatting The Tartan.



A Glimpse of the MacCowans in Lorn

“The M'ilchomghains, or M'llchoen as they here are called, were an ancient race of untraced origin; the name means Son of the Servant of S. Comgan, and they have now in the Highlands anglicized their name to the form Cowan. Three generations of them are commemorated on the Market Cross of Inveraray, which must have been brought from somewhere in Lorne, or wherever this race were really natives of, as I have not found signs of them about Inveraray itself. On the Cross they are called M'Eichgyllichomghan.”

So commented the Duke of Argyll on a list, published in the *Highland Papers Vol II* (1916), of a very few of the hundreds massacred at Dunavertie in 1647. The massacre, during the covenanter wars, cost the MacDougalls a great part of their fighting strength. The short list includes 49 identified MacDougalls and 41 persons with various names, including three named M'ilchoan, or MacCowan. Shortly after Dunavertie, another M'llchoen died defending Kerrera and Gylan Castle against Covenanter forces.

Saint Comgan MacCowan, as noted in the opening paragraph, is usually derived from Mac Gillecòmhghain, or son of the servant of Saint Comgan. Comgan, or Comhghan, was an Irish prince from Leinster who left Ireland with a number of followers at the turn of the 8th century and founded a monastery on Lochalsh, a few miles from the narrows separating Lochalsh and Skye. Saint Comgan was the uncle of Saint Fillan some of whose relics were taken by Robert the Bruce to the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. Fillan is said to have taken Comgan to Iona for burial.

Many locations, principally along major waterways, were consecrated to Saint Comgan, usually with the name Kilchoan (Cill Chòmghain in Gaelic), that is Comgan's Church or Cell. These include churches or religious houses: in Glendale in what is now Duirinish parish, Skye; around Boreraig on Loch Eishort, in Strath Parish on Skye; at Teampuill Choan in Ord on Skye; in a place where Inverie, Knoydart, stands today; in Kilchoan in Ardnarmurchan; in what is now called Mountrich, in Kiltarn Parish on Cromarty Firth on the east coast of Scotland; on Kilchoan Bay, west of Melfort in Lorn. One scholar identifies a place name Cill Chomhghain on the island of Isley, although most write Cill Chomain, associating the place name with perhaps a dozen Saint Comans. There is, in addition, a Kirkcowan lying inland in Wigtown parish in Galloway. Some scholars derive Kirkcowan from Cill Chòmghain, or Comgan's church. Another eminent scholar, however, derives Kirkcowan from Cill Eòghain, from Saint Eòghan (Ewan) Ardsratha who received his instruction at nearby Whithorn, founded by Saint Ninian around 400 AD. Saint Comgan is the patron saint of Turiff in Aberdeenshire.

The Christian name Gillecomgan probably came into use in the last centuries of the first millennium. A Gillecomgan, who became Mormaer of Moray in around 1020 AD, was the first husband of Gruach, later Lady MacBeth, and the father of Lulach who succeeded MacBeth to the throne of Scotland. Lulach was crowned in August 1057 at Scone and killed by Malcolm III or his henchmen the next year. Both MacBeth and Lulach were buried at Iona along with 46 other Scottish, 4 Irish, and 8 Norwegian kings. I assume that the Christian name, Gillecomgan, was widely used long before surnames were generally taken. Those thus adopting, say, Mac 'illeChomhghain or MacCowan as a surname need not have had a close genetic link with, nor have lived close by, others of that name.



MacDowall

A Glimpse of the MacCowans in Lorn (cont)

In spelling the name Còmhghan, the letter “h” is simply a sign of lenition, indicating a softer pronunciation than the original consonant. In the old Irish uncial script, this was denoted by a dot over a consonant. An “mh” sounds typically like an English “v”, but can in the middle of a word resemble an English “w”. A “gh” before a broad vowel like “a” is a soft guttural sound while before narrow vowels like “i” is a “y” sound which can sometimes disappear. The “ch” is a soft c as in the German “ch” in Bach. Thus Comhghan has a similar pronunciation to Cowan or Cohen or Koan. The “ille” (“gille” is Gaelic for boy or servant) in Mac GhilleChòmhghanin, or Mac ‘illeChòmhain, is a “ily-uh” sound that may or may not get lost over centuries.

Mac a’ Ghobhainn There are two other important derivations of the name MacCowan that need to be mentioned. The first regards MacCowan as a form of MacGowan, or Mac Gobhainn/Mac a’ Ghobhainn in Gaelic. The Gaelic for “smith” (or “blacksmith”) is “gobha”, “of a smith” is “gobhain”, and “of the smith” is “a’ ghobhain” while “son of a smith” is “mac gobhainn”, and “son of the smith” is “mac a’ ghobhainn”. Although “bh” is usually pronounced like an English “v”, in the middle of a Gaelic word it will often sound like an English “w”. We have “son of a/the (black) smith” rather than “son of the servant of Saint Comgan”. Mac a’ Ghobhainn is frequently anglicized as “Smith”. Mac Còmhghain and Mac Gobhain are distinct Gaelic names, but are close enough to be listed as alternatives in standard Gaelic-English dictionaries. Those of us bearing the name MacCowan do not need a dictionary or Gaelic to have noticed the confusion.

Oban Provost Hugh McCowan is one of the most prominent men to bear the name MacCowan. He was a founder of An Comunn Gàidhealach in 1891 and of the first Mòd Nàiseanta in 1892. Provost MacCowan gives the derivation of his name from “son of the smith”. Nancy Black, the world’s most important source of information on the MacCowans of Lorn, sent me the following succinct description of the line of Hugh MacCowan, her great uncle:

Iain of Dunollie (1375) was the eighth Chief of the clan and the son of Allan, who was the son of our Sixth Chief, Duncan of Dunollie. Dunollie castle was his main seat and the clan duthus. Iain of Dunollie married Christina the daughter of Sir Dougal Campbell of Craignish. He lived with Christiana for twenty years and had one son named Dougal. Christina later married the Alexander the second Chief of the MacNaughtens and still later Ivor Campbell. Traditions say that Iain of Dunollie had a second son Allan who founded the MacDougalls of Raera (Raray) and Ardmaddy. This was the senior cadet family of the MacDougalls of Lorn. Allan of Reyran (Raera or Raray) in Kilninver parish himself had a son called Comham (Gobhainn) Mor (the big blacksmith) from whom descended the McCowans (MacComhain) of Lorn. Iain of Dunollie died around 1400.

The Gaelic spelling of Provost McCowan’s surname name, in reasonably official places, has varied from Mac Comhghain to Mac a’ Ghobhainn. Duncan MacGregor Whyte’s portrait of Provost MacCowan can be seen at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/yourpaintings/galleries/locations/oban-municipal-buildings-6573>.

A Glimpse of the MacCowans in Lorn (cont)

MacEwen/MacEwan The second alternative derivation records Mac Cowan as a possible form of MacEwan, or Mac Eòghan. Eòghan is a very old Gaelic name. It appears in the Ulster cycle and can be found on one of the earliest stones recovered at Iona. It is Anglicized as Ewan or Hugh (although Hugh most often translates Uisdean nowadays.)

In Lorn, the names MacCowan and MacEwan have been known to mutate, in both directions, into one other. The MacEwan family of perhaps greatest interest in looking at names related to MacCowans is the great bardic family. The members of this family lived in Lorn, close to a major concentration of Mac illochoans, were significant late medieval Gaelic poets, and were bard-sennachies to both the MacDougalls and the Campbells. MacEwans are regarded as a sept, or associated family, of both Clan MacDougall and Clan Campbell. Alastair Campbell of Airds, Univorn Pursuivant examines the relationship between MacCowan/MacOwen/MacEwan in *A History of Clan Campbell, Vol 1* treating them as different names of the same Campbell sept, MacOwen.

Derick Thomson, one of the most important Gaelic scholars and poets of the second half of the twentieth century, writes in *The Companion to Gaelic Scotland* of the MacEwen family:

.... They are designated as a bardic family in 1558, when Colin Campbell of Glenorchy granted a charter to Eugenius McDuncane McCarne and to his son Arnaldus or Arnoldus and his heirs male after him who act as *Joculatores* ('vulgariter Rymouris') giving them the two merklands of Barmullocht in the lordship of Lorne. Over two centuries later (1779) Donald MacNicol records the following tradition about the MacEwens:

The MacEwens had free lands in Lorn in Argyleshire, for acting as Bards to the family of Argyle, to that of *Bredalbane*, and likewise to Sir *John MacDougal of Dunolly*, in 1572. The two last of the race were Airne and his son Neil.

A member of the bardic family composed a lament for a John of Lorn, Chief of Clan MacDougall, that was reproduced in the Book of the Dean of Lismore, the oldest known anthology of Scottish Gaelic poetry. Derick Thomson wrote that members of this family may also have been responsible for translating Calvin's Catechism in 1631, and some poems included therein, as well as the Shorter Catechism in 1652. It has been reported that the last of the M'Ewen Bards to Argyll was minister of Kilchoan in Nether Lorn.

The Landscape Kilniniver, south of Oban, has historically been a home to MacCowan families. Kilniniver (Cill an inbhir, or Church of the estuary) is a very small, beautiful, community on the shore of Loch Feochan. The estuary in Kilniniver's name is the River Euchar. There are now no venders of any products in the town. It has a primary school and a small very attractive parish church. An older parish church, near the crest of a hill overlooking the town, is a ruin, although the cemetery is still used. A short walk from the town center is Carraig nam Marbh or Rock of the Dead, a low unmarked rock outcrop jutting into Loch Feochan where the bodies of the Kings of Scotland would rest waiting for the boat to ferry them to Iona for burial. The remains of Duncan, Gillecomgan, MacBeth, and Lulach may have rested here.



MacDougall

A Glimpse of the MacCowans in Lorn (cont)

MacCowans have rested in the Kilniver Cemetery for centuries. Nancy Black believes that the graves may go back until the early 16th century, although she notes her research is incomplete, not confirming any before 1700. There are MacCowans in other nearby old cemeteries, such as Kilbride, as well. MacCowans of many spellings are found on the island of Kerrera. However, Hope MacDougall of MacDougall relates that the first known church in Kerrera was built in 1872 and its residents needed to cross to the mainland and travel to Kilbride or further to Kilmore for Sunday services.

Kilniver is quite old, A 1312 charter by King Robert, distributing Mac Dougall possessions after the Battle of Brandar, records Kilniver and other properties to Dougall Campbell of Lochaw for the service of a ship of twenty-six oars. Raera, the traditional home of the MacDougalls of Raera (Reyan), is adjacent to Kilniver.

Proceeding south west from Kilniver one passes Loch Seil, a small inland loch. Frank Adams, in his *Clans, Septs, and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands*, describes the MacCowan sept of Clan MacDougall as:

Cowans were numerous in Kilchoan, Nether Lorn. A family of Cowans or MacCowans followed MacDougall of Reyan, from whom they held lands about Loch Seil.

The only village now near Loch Seil is Duachy. Nancy Black tells me that her family were in Duachy and the various clachans thereabouts for at least a century before moving to Kilniver. There is a smaller inland loch, Dubh Loch (Dark loch) that can be reached by walking a track west from Loch Seil. The Standing stones of Duachy, an ensemble of at least four stones, only one of which is now standing, are on the crest of a hill east of Dubh Loch and Brendon's Seat, a probably Bronze aged seat cut into rock albeit associated with Saint Brendon, on the crest of the hill standing to the west. Between Brendon's seat and the Standing Stones of Duachy, on an elevated bank overlooking the reeded shallows at the end of Dubh Loch, are buried cut stones surmised to be from the Bronze age.

If one continues to the south past Ardmaddy Castle, built by the MacDougalls of Rayran in the late 15th century and lost by a later MacDougall of Raera in 1648, climbing upward past the Wishing Tree over Bealach Gaoithe (Wind Pass) high above the Sound of Seil then one descends toward Kilchoan Bay. One can see on the descent the Kilchoan Estate, self catering cottages that now stand on the site of the parish church of Kilchoan, below Kilchoan Lochs and on the shore of Kilchoan Bay. The site was mentioned in the same 1326 charter of King Robert noted above, but presumed to be much older. There is no evidence that the Parish has ever been registered, but oral traditions attest that it existed for many centuries. This, around 5 ½ miles as the raven flies from Kilniver, was where the last of the MacEwan poets penned verses for the catechism.

— Ashby McCown

Scottish Stories by the Greatest Story Teller

In earlier editions of our newsletter, we took for our thesis that we ought to know the land of our ancestors better, and if we can't do so by travelling there, we can at least do so by reading about it. So Walter, Hugh, and I wrote an article to suggest a small fundamental library for you. The books we suggested, in a fine Scottish way, are well-written and pretty cheap. We hope you have had a chance to acquire and read some of them, whether at your bookseller's or at Amazon, and we hope that you have enjoyed them.

If you have followed our advice, you now have at least a basic understanding of Scotland's history and culture, and are now quite well prepared to take on the novels of Scotland's great writer, Sir Walter Scott. He pretty much invented the historical novel. His novels often include separate stories as asides, and these stories are among the earliest examples of the short story form. His sense of the history and the natural beauty of his country came from his childhood. He lived half the time in Edinburgh and half in the rural Borders, where he spent summers with his grandparents for his health. As a young man, he visited other areas of Scotland and came to appreciate, more than most of his compatriots, the differences and the relationship, often stormy, of Scotland's two great regions. The southern region, the Lowlands, was, as it is today, relatively fertile with gentle hills and well-watered plains. It is here that the two major cities are located, each with easy access to the sea. The other region, the Highlands, with high mountains and narrow glens, descends to sea-girt islands and narrow coves. This region is poorer than the other, less fertile, where older Celtic traditions long survived.

There were tensions among these regions. In the south, people spoke a dialect of English, they practiced an austere Calvinist religion, and looked forward to growing prosperity owing to a close union with England under its Hanoverian king. In the north the quasi-feudal clan system persisted. Highlanders spoke Gaelic and remained in large part loyal to the Stuart pretender. Some areas retained the Catholic faith. Among the lowlanders there was a certain distrust, even fear, of barbaric kilted highlanders, who were, besides, only too adept at pilfering their cattle.

Scott was deeply sensitive of these regional differences and tensions; he drew his inspiration from them. He began with poetry, and his Scottish epics brought immediate fame. He eventually decided to tell his stories in prose: by doing so he created the historical novel. His first one came out two hundred years ago, in 1814. In 1817 he published his most famous novel, *Rob Roy*. Dear readers, if you do not yet know this novel, you absolutely must read it. To quote another great Scottish poet: "Now's the time and now's the hour."

The plot is typical of Scott and of his numerous followers. Francis, a young Englishman, chooses not to follow his father in commerce and is promptly sent off to stay with relatives in the north of England. Shortly afterwards he has to go to Glasgow, where he is befriended by a well-to-do merchant, the Baillie Nicol Jarvie. Baillie Jarvie is one of Scott's most vivid characters. He steals the scene as soon as he comes on. The other important character is Rob Roy MacGregor, the highlander and freebooter, leader of an outlawed clan, sought by the authorities. By coincidence, never unusual in Scott's novels, a young Englishwoman with whom Francis had fallen in love now arrives. She, like Rob Roy, is a Jacobite and is in the midst of a plot to restore the Stuarts to their rightful throne. I'll leave it there, because, to use a Scottish expression, I don't want to spoil your treat.

To nineteenth-century readers, Rob Roy and Scott's other novels brought stories of adventure and romance about times and places far removed from the present. Scott took care to fill their imaginations with ample detail and description so that he makes the past romantic and vivid. He can do this because he visited the places where the action occurs and because he had an erudite



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Scottish Stories by the Greatest Story Teller (cont)

knowledge of history and historic figures. He writes as an intimate observer and gains our trust. The hero of the story is also as much observer as active participant in the action.

We are no longer living in the nineteenth century, of course, so a few cautions and suggestions may be useful. Scott does indeed write in English, so that we surely can understand him, and if he were alive today, he would understand us. However, he uses the language in a different, older style. His style certainly has an old world charm, but you do have to get used to it. He is not actually verbose, but he does go on a little. He is a novelist, not a journalist.

A more recent Scottish novelist, a fan of Scott's, once pointed out that he would never find a modern publisher. He makes all the mistakes. His novels start very slowly, with an author's preface and a long introductory first chapter. The dialogue is stilted. And just to be sure that you get the entire picture, he adds many footnotes or endnotes. From time to time one of the characters interrupts with a story which could very well stand out in some separate publication.

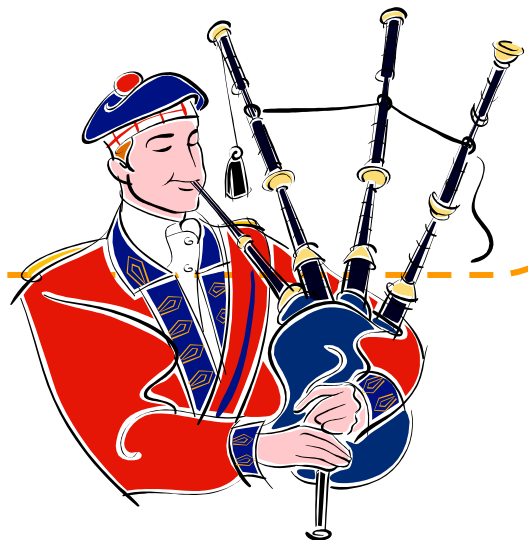
On the other hand, the long introductions and the full descriptive passages convey the background that put us into the eighteenth-century Scottish world. Just what we were looking for. The endnotes are charming and informative. The stories are a delightful diversion. As to the dialogue, that seems to be the way persons of a certain class or background actually spoke. So to enjoy Scott, you have to put yourself in the right frame of mind. Sit down in a good chair in a good light and take it slowly. Keep a dictionary close by. No background radio or television. Make an effort and you will soon be looking for a second novel to follow *Rob Roy*.

In my case, it has been a delight to read *Rob Roy* again after many years. It gave me new pleasures and new understandings of Scotland over two centuries ago. For a long, agreeable, and instructive discussion of Scott and his place in Scottish literature I am indebted to Hugh MacDougall. Hugh would doubtless advise me to give you an example of Scott's poetry, not as easy to find as the novels. Here is a little drinking song from *Rob Roy*

Come fill up my cup, come fill up my cann,
Come saddle my horses, come call up my man:
Come open your gates and let me gae free,
I daurna stay langer in bonny Dundee.

And I daurna stay any longer with you, but it has been a pleasure.

— Peter Clepper



You can help: The Society needs volunteers for a variety of positions

In the President's comments, it's stated that the Society is at a crossroads. Many leadership positions have become vacant in recent years and several in the past few months. We also need assistance with communications despite recent progress. We are experiencing the turnover that many volunteer organizations face at times, and we need new people willing to pitch in with their time and talents.

Here are some of the many areas where Society work can benefit from an infusion of new blood. Please contact Editor Peter Clepper (editor@macdougall.org) or President Malcolm MacDougall (president@macdougall.org) if you're willing to assist in any of these ways:

Newsletters We need someone to begin assisting with this publication, The Tartan. Our flagship newsletter has a long tradition of excellence. To continue this tradition, we need someone who can serve as co-editor and eventually take over as editor. The position should not seem intimidating. It is not a one-person effort. Writing and editing ability is expected but The Tartan benefits from many members worldwide who contribute articles. Furthermore, others in the Society handle the layout design, printing and distribution, and contribute photography and news items.

Although not quite as critical at this time, we can also use more assistance with our electronic communications. We have a team revamping of the Clan website (www.macdougall.org), but they can use help with updating pages and keeping the content current.

Regional and State Leadership We now have a number of vacancies at these levels which are crucial to the future strength and growth of the Society. Longer term we especially need "new blood" in our leadership. We hope our current leaders will remain involved because their experience and wisdom—and unending enthusiasm—are invaluable. However, some have decided it's time to pass the baton to others. We need new volunteers to step up.

The most urgent needs at this time are for State/Provincial representatives. This is a vital position to ensure grassroots presence and tents at Highland games. State and provincial representatives receive support from the Regional Commissioner and the national organization. We need to hear from interested members. Even if a state or provincial position is filled, we can use added assistance. Please contact us if you have the slightest interest. While we have had many vacancies at this level, some of the most critical are Pennsylvania, Southern Virginia and Texas.

Although the Regional Commissioners are appointed by the president, we would like to hear from members who might be interested in filling one of these positions. They help coordinate the Society's activities within their respective regions. These as well are not go-it-alone positions. They receive assistance from the Society's national leadership and can rely on a comprehensive handbook to guide their efforts.



MacDowall



MacDougall

Founders Dinner, Annual Meeting and BBQ in July at Grandfather Mountain

Are you making your travel arrangements for the famous Grandfather Mountain Highland Games (GMHG) in July? Plan to participate this year because the GMHG have a rich tradition worth experiencing.

Not only are they one of the largest gatherings of Scottish clans outside of Scotland, but they're also the site of the founding of our Society 49 years ago, our annual Founders Dinner and most of our Annual General Meetings ever since.

This year, the Games take place July 11 through 13. It is always a weekend of great fellowship, great food, and great entertainment for Clan MacDougall in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina.

Our annual Founders Dinner begins at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, July 11 at the Eseeola Lodge in Linville, at the base of the mountain, with a formal reception followed by an elegant and festive dinner that includes piping and address to the haggis. It concludes with special entertainment. Please fill out and send in the special Founders Dinner Reservation Form ASAP if you plan to attend.

This year we are very fortunate to have the assistance of COSCA, the Council of Scottish Clans and Associations, who are providing the venue for both our BBQ and Annual General Meeting on Saturday afternoon July 12. They will be held at the COSCA house on the campus of Lees-McRae College in lovely Banner Elk, just four miles down the road from Grandfather.

The celebrated BBQ Feast of Porky Campbell begins at 4:30 p.m. We're happy to report that Board member Beacham McDougald will once again cook the delicious Carolina style pulled pork BBQ. His recent surgery led him to slightly alter his recipe. Although he points out that it can't be called "health food," all of the visible fat is removed and the sauce has less salt.

The 2014 Annual General Meeting (AGM) follows promptly at 5:30. This is the annual meeting of the membership, open to all active members. It is mandated by the Society Bylaws and provides a platform for updating the membership on the state of the Society and the results of Board of Directors Meetings while creating a forum for participation by the general membership; watch for details on our website www.macdougall.org and in e-bulletins. (Please note: If you can't attend in person this year, we will be "webcasting" the AGM live via the internet. Watch for details.)

Due to significant differences in cost, our paper editions are shorter than our electronic version, and they are black and white instead of color. For those who would like to read the article we excised, please contact the editor for a mailed copy of "A Glimpse of the MacCowan's of Lorn" by Ashby MacCowan.

Clan MacDougall Society
Annual Dinner Reservation Form

Friday, July 11, 2014

Reception at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Eseeola Lodge, Linville, North Carolina

Deadline: Please complete and return as soon as possible for planning purposes,
but no later than June 30, 2014

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____ email: _____

\$50.00 per adult, \$12.00 per child (12 & under).

Number of adults attending Dinner (\$50.00 each) ____ Children (\$12.00 each) ____

Send your completed form and check payable to Clan MacDougall Society to:

Joe & Lynne Borneman, 17 Ladysmith Ct., Hamilton, VA 20158

Tel: 703-430-7686 Email: oban14slainte@aol.com



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