



The Tartan



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- MacDowall / McDowell DNA
- A Claymore or Not a Claymore?

IN THIS ISSUE

- | | |
|---|---|
| A Message from the Chief of Clan MacDougall | 2 |
| A Message from the Chief of Clan MacDowall | 3 |
| A Memorable Dinner | 4 |
| President's Report | 5 |
| The Clan MacDowall / McDowell DNA Project | 6 |
| A Claymore or Not a Claymore, That is the Question... | 8 |

Clan MacDougall Gathering 2024
Dunollie Castle
Oban Scotland
July 30th Through August 4th!

Watch the Newsletters & website for details as they become available

Cover photo, "Dunollie through Cherry Blossoms" courtesy of MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust.

A Message from the Chief of Clan MacDougall

Dear Clansfolk,

This year, having emerged from past lockdowns and restrictions at Dunollie, we have had a full year of seasonal opening at the Museum, Castle and Grounds.

From April to September, we welcomed just short of 14,000 visitors, including a significant number of Clan members. We are especially keen that if any of you visit from N. America that you make yourself known.



The Dunollie Castle Path handrail is nearing completion at last! We have a contractor identified to install the metal posts and rope. The delay has been caused by Ancient Monuments rules and surveys. We would like to thank our North American Friends for their contribution which enabled the first phase of this important project. We are looking forward to finally having this support for visitors climbing up to Dunollie Castle and back.

The exhibition of my Aunt Hope's photography "Hope behind the Lens," put together by Catherine Gillies and team, has received great feed back and we are delighted to say that it will remain in place for another season.

We are pleased that we are having closer links with yourselves as a result of the use of "Zoom" meetings which include the "Dunollie Preservation Trust" and "Friends of Kilbride." This has been an inevitable result of Covid restrictions.

I would like to thank those who sent sympathetic messages on behalf of our Queen Elizabeth who ruled for 70 years.

Finally, our family and myself, wish you a VERY HAPPY CHRISMAS and a fulfilling and healthy NEW YEAR of 2023.

Morag MacDougall of MacDougall – Dunollie

Merry
Christmas

A Message From The Chief of Clan MacDowall And His Grandson Dougal



**Clan Chief Professor
Fergus D.H. Macdowall (2012)**

Merry Christmas and a happy new year to all the MacDowall and MacDougall clansfolk around the world!

Season's Greetings and a Merry Christmas to all.

J.A. Dougal Macdowall,
Grandson of Clan Chief
Professor Fergus D.H.
Macdowall, Chief of the Name
and Arms of MacDowall



J.A. Dougal Macdowall

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MacDowall

A Memorable Dinner

Dunbar Douglas was having a dinner for his friends and family. As a rich peer of the realm of Scotland, he could afford to dine anywhere, but for this occasion he had chosen to invite guests to his home on St. Mary's Isle near Kirkcudbright. Perhaps he would once again regale them with the tale of how a local Galloway lad named John Paul, who had emigrated to America, had returned sixteen years ago as a ship captain.

The man had showed up on St. Mary's Isle with a squad of seamen planning to kidnap Dunbar and exchange him for American seamen impressed into the Royal Navy. The plan failed when they learned on their way to his house that he was not home. The Captain had then headed back to his frigate, Ranger, but his two officers stopped and insisted they should return to the house to take some reward for the ship's crew. So, he sent them back with strict orders to take Dunbar's family silver but nothing else.

With her house surrounded by a dozen men armed to the teeth, Dunbar's wife, Lady Helen, had met the two officers who came to her door. They identified themselves and their frigate and then informed her that they were commanded to carry away her family silver and that, if she complied, they would not make any further trouble. Once the officers were inside her house, Lady Helen peacefully surrendered up 250 ounces of family silverware and silver plate, including the coffee and tea pots, the latter still wet from breakfast. While her servants were busy gathering up her silverware, she politely entertained the two officers to a glass of wine before they left fifteen minutes later. The Captain later explained that his crew had wished to "pillage, burn, and plunder all they could." Instead, to placate them, he had permitted them to take Dunbar's set of silver. Captain John Paul Jones had returned it to him and Lady Helen after the war. Tonight, Dunbar's guests would probably dine off that silver set bearing his Selkirk family crest.

Dunbar's young son, Thomas, had been there too during the raid. Thomas would later take up the cause of helping crofters dispossessed by the Highland Clearances. Using his family fortune, he would support three immigrant settlements for them in Canada. In 1811 he would buy Hudsons Bay Company land to establish his Red River settlement near the mouth of the Assiniboine River in present day Winnipeg, Manitoba. Twenty miles (32 km) upriver, the twin cities of Selkirk and Selkirk East now bear the noble title of this humanitarian 5th earl of Selkirk. The guest of honor at his father's dinner party certainly shared Thomas' concerns for the plight of the poor but, unfortunately, would not live long enough to see Thomas' worthy projects.

When the dinner began, Dunbar asked his guest to say a grace. Robbie Burns responded with a favorite of his: The Galloway Grace, a century old grace sometimes known as The Covenanters' Grace. Though there are variations, the original in the Lallans, Lowland Scots, went much like this:

*Some hae meat and canna eat,
And some hae nane that want it.
But we hae meat, and we can eat,
Sae let the Lord be thankit!*

A Memorable Dinner (cont)

But, at the dinner with the earl of Selkirk, Robbie Burns is said to have recited The Galloway Grace in his usual Standard English version:

*Some have meat and cannot eat,
Some cannot eat that want it.
But we have meat and we can eat,
So let the Lord be thankit.*

Ever since, the old Galloway Grace recited at the table of Dunbar Douglas, 4th Earl of Selkirk in 1794, has been known as The Selkirk Grace. Perhaps the next time you hear one of its many variations the origin of this humble Scottish Grace will come to mind. Enjoy the coming holidays!

President's Report

Season's Greetings!

Our cover offers the first “tease” of the 2024 MacDougall Clan Gathering the readers of our paper edition will have seen. This memorable event happens only once every five years and is a special experience. More than a year out, we have little more than the dates to share with you now but will keep you updated. Information will be in future issues and posted to our website as well as dunollie.org.



Oban is a friendly little town and those with internet access can find local information at www.oban.org.uk. Of course, the gold standard for Scottish tourism is visitscotland.com. Georgette and I have had great success with accommodations through airbnb.com, though there are also many traditional options available. We hope to see you in the “little bay” in 2024!

It was a busy year for our Society, with us returning to the games fields for an (almost) normal slate of activities. I hope you all had the opportunity to gather with your kinsmen at events in your area. For myself, the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in July were a highlight. Several Representatives and long-term members made the trip and were on hand to greet and fellowship with a record number of new members who joined our ranks over that weekend.

In November, you received our latest “Membership Renewal and Year-End Fundraising” appeal. Many of you have already answered the call. For the rest, this is my last opportunity of the year to encourage you to do so. Your continued membership and additional financial contributions enable us to continue to be such an active



MacDougall

President's Message (cont)

organization. Your outstanding support last year allowed us to:

- Fund the creation of the Hope Behind the Lens exhibition at Dunollie
- Assist with maintenance and archaeological work at Kilbride kirkyard
- Conduct DNA analysis of human remains discovered on the Isle of Lismore
- Grant scholarships to deserving students in a variety of disciplines
- Initiate several heritage projects, including new editions of two of our Clan books and continuing work on an upcoming genealogical database.

It is one thing to say, "I'm proud to be Scottish." It is a stronger sentiment when it is supported with actions like these, which you all do year after year after year. Thank you!

Kyle Jones
President, CMSNA

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The Clan MacDowall / McDowell DNA Project

By Charlotte McDowell Baker, Administrator of The McDowell / MacDowall Surname DNA Project

In 2004 The McDowell Surname DNA Project was established to create a databank of DNA profiles to aid in genealogical research of Clan MacDowall lineages with privacy, integrity, and a spirit of fellowship. The goals of our genealogical research are:

1. To fellowship with family.
2. To Insure a true family history.
3. To dispel unsubstantiated family histories.
4. To prove our connections with DNA and documented paper trail combined.
5. To re-think unproved theories.

Y-DNA analysis assists in supporting or refuting the premise that participants descend from a common male ancestor because the Y-chromosome is passed down only through an unbroken male lineage – father to son to son, etc. For this reason, Y-DNA is the best method



MacDowall / MacDowell DNA (cont)

of tracking your direct male ancestors and their male descendants who are your distant cousins.

What are the requirements for you join the McDowell DNA Project?

All McDowell, MacDowall families are invited to join our project. You will be directed to purchase either the Y-DNA, the FAMILY FINDER, or the MTDNA Test at www.familytreedna.com/McDowell IF you have already tested, I can approve your DNA test results to be added and uploaded to our website.

If you need assistance, please contact us at charlotte_baker@tds.net before requesting to join the project. We believe in documenting our family research to help us to discover our DNA connections. Before you request to join this Project be prepared to give the Administrator some of your family history. Also be ready to communicate with the others in the project. We have found our objectives can best be accomplished when members work together to discover their ancestral DNA connections.

Note: We request applicants who are providing a DNA test to also provide some of their family history because this information will enable you to make genealogical connections with family histories of other project members.

1. MALE Applicants to the project submit both their Y-DNA and their genealogical information for comparison with similar information from other project members.
2. You must submit a MALE DNA provided by a Clan MacDowall surname, or variant of the name, to participate in this Project. We suggest male applicants first take the Y-37 DNA test, or a higher level, to obtain results in the same range as other members' tests in the project.
3. FEMALE applicants requesting to join the Project will have to provide a sample of Y-chromosome male DNA provided by a Clan MacDowall male on her father's side - her brother, father, father's brother, grandfather, etc.
4. To find cousins on BOTH sides of your family, take the Family Finder test.
5. Anyone who wishes to provide the MTDNA (maternal) test is welcome to do so as well, however this DNA test will follow only your mother's DNA back to the origin of her mother's female ancestor.

Note: Applicants must give Limited or Full access to project administrators to receive any help at all. Otherwise, your results and information are hidden from our project administrators. There is little point in being a member of the project if the administrator cannot help you to locate your connections.

6. After you have tested your DNA at www.familytreedna.com you may join the McDowell Surname DNA Project by logging onto the website. Type in the name McDowell under the Surname Prompt and request to join *McDowell Project.



MacDowall

MacDowall / MacDowell DNA (cont)

Who is eligible to apply to join the project?

The McDowell Surname DNA Project accepts surname spellings with or without the Mac, Mc, or M' prefix or capital letters. These variations include Dole, Dowall, Dugal, Dugle, Duwall, O'Dowill, McCoul, MacDowal(l), Mcdowal(l), MacDowel, McDowel(l), MacDowyl, McDole, McDuyll, Macdoual, McDouall, M'Doual(l), MacDool, McDoll, Makdougall, Macdougall (the original ancient name of the Macdowalls), and many similar spellings.

Note: Galloway family surnames such as Coull, Coyle, Cole, and Kyle and their related spellings were territorially associated with Clan MacDowall and are all accepted as members of the McDowell Surname DNA Project.

What happens to my Y-DNA when I join the project?

Testing the Y-chromosome for genetic matches between males is done by Family Tree DNA (FTDNA), affiliated with Dr. Michael Hammer and the University of Arizona. The lab test results are entered into FTDNA's Y-DNA database and when 2 people show matching results, the lab will inform both parties (provided both have signed the FTDNA Release Form).

Please visit the FTDNA website www.familytreedna.com for more information and an explanation of Most Recent Common Ancestor.

We share our DNA DATA with members only on the www.familytreedna.com website under the Groups page and on our PRIVATE Group page on Facebook. You may join our Private Group The McDowell DNA and Genealogy Group on Facebook after you have returned your DNA kit for testing.

For more information about our project you may contact me on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/clanmacdowall/> I hope to see all your Clan MacDowall family join us in our journey to connect with our clan families from all over the world.

A Claymore or not a Claymore, that is the Question...

By John H. Dowdle, Jr. (COL USA RET)

If one studies the martial culture of the Scottish warrior and soldier over the centuries, there is always a natural interest in the weapons they carried and used in different time periods. However, one term has generated some intense discussions and disagreements among Scottish martial enthusiasts; that is: what is the correct description of a Scottish claymore sword? On the surface it should not be difficult, but depending on whom you ask, you can get many different answers and perspectives. This is especially true when using internet-based sources today, as answers are simply all over the place. Knowing of my interest in Scottish martial history, I was asked by The Tartan editor to write an article on the

The Claymore (cont)

claymore. After doing an in-depth analysis on the topic, here is my take from my own perspective or “foxhole.” One caveat before we get started: I already know someone out there will disagree with my perspective, but that is fine, let the discussion continue! For your own research, I have posted several website links and book sources at the end of the article for you to review and make your own determination.

The term claymore

First, let’s look at where the term claymore may come from, then discuss the two main sword designs that are called claymores, and why the terms seem to be used interchangeably today. So, where does the term claymore come from?

Well, the term “claymore” is likely an Anglicization for the old Scottish Gaelic term *claidheamh mór*, “big or large sword,” which has been used to refer to both the Single-Handed Scottish broadsword and also to the Two-Handed Highland sword also at times called a ‘Twa-Handit’ sword. The term *claidheamh-dà làimh* came later to refer specifically to the Two-Handed Highland sword.

For now, I will use the term claymore as a common term, as both Gaelic names are simply types of large Scottish style sword designs!

The Two-Handed claymore, or the Two-Handed Highland sword

So, let’s look at the two primary sword designs. The first design, the Two-Handed Highland sword, initially appeared during the 1400’s and was used up through the 1600s. Two-Handed large swords had been used across Europe and the British Isles for centuries, but the Scots developed their own variant, the Two-Handed Highland sword, that had a slightly longer blade with a quatrefoil design on the cross guards (X-guards in Highland sword diagram below), which many historical sources attribute to the quatrefoils from the Seal of John Balliol from the late 1200s. (See diagram and Web Link 4 below). Interestingly, the



Depiction of Barefoot MacDougall Chief with sword, 1855 by R.R. Maclan in public domain



Seal of John Balliol Front Side (Illustration)



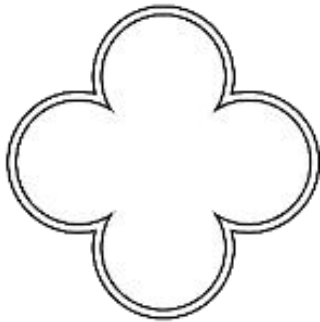
Seal of John Balliol Back Side (Illustration)

Image by Walter de Gray Birch in public domain

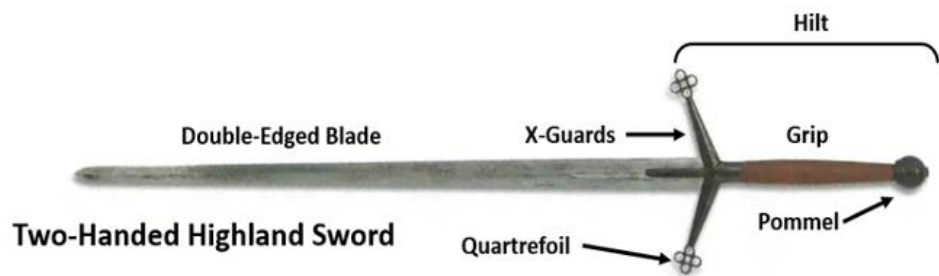


MacDougall

The Claymore (cont)



Quatrefoil design



quatrefoil design is also found across many earlier cultures and times including the Olmecs and Mayans in Central America.

The Two-Handed Highland sword generally weighed between 4.5–6.2 pounds (2.0-2.81 kg) and was on average 47–55 inches (119-139 cm) in length. In most cases it was a double-edged blade. The last major use of the Two-Handed Highland sword was at the Battle of Killiecrankie in July 1689 and by the time of the later Jacobite rebellions, this type of sword was rarely carried anymore.

The Single-Handed claymore, the Scottish Basket-Hilt broadsword

The prevalent type of sword carried by Scots during the Jacobite rebellions up to 1746 was the Single-Handed claymore, more commonly called a Basket-Hilt broadsword due to the extra protection it provides the user's sword hand. The Basket-Hilt sword is primarily referred to as a Scottish broadsword, claidheamh mór, but this design was not used just by Scottish warriors; there are several variants.

The English (mortuary), German/Swiss (Walloon), and Italians (Schiavona) all had their own basket-hilt variants. The Scottish Basket-Hilt is possibly based on an earlier German design (also called a Sinclair design) brought back by Scottish mercenaries from Europe, becoming more prominent in the late 17th and early 18th centuries, especially during the period of the Jacobite rebellions. According to Lord Archibald Campbell's book (See Book Source 1 below), many of these early style Scottish broadswords were cut down and re-forged from damaged, broken, or simply 'out of fashion' Two-Handed Highland swords. These swords, in conjunction with a circular style Scottish shield called a targe, were used effectively many times against a musket/bayonet in close quarter combat.

Often Scottish warriors also carried a dirk (Scottish long knife) in their targe (shield) hand along with wearing the targe on their arm. Inside the basket-hilt there was normally a



Depiction of MacLachlan Chief with Scottish Basket-Hilt sword and targe - 1855 by R.R. Maclan in public domain

The Claymore (cont)

leather or silk insert that helped protect the user's hand from rubbing against the inside of the protective metal basket.



Basket-Hilt broadsword blades

The Basket-Hilt broadsword was normally a double-edged blade, but some versions had a single-edged or 'backsword' type blade. Some sources classify a Scottish backsword (single-edged) as a claidheamh-cuil, a term that came along later to assist with classification, as with the claidheamh-dà làimh (See Web Sources 3, 10 below). The average Basket-Hilt broadsword could weigh between 2.2 to 3.4 pounds (1.0-1.54 kg), and the average length of the broadsword blade was between 30-34 inches long (76-86 cm).

A single-edged backsword blade had a little more mass and therefore was slightly heavier in weight than the double-edged versions, but it was also easier and cheaper to make, which made it an ideal sidearm for the common foot-soldier. It also allowed for more forceful cuts due to its additional mass and weight. In comparison, a double-edged Basket-Hilt broadsword blade normally was slightly lighter in weight and a bit faster in the hand while allowing for employing more effective thrusting techniques as well as cutting; but it also required more experience and expertise to forge, making it a more expensive blade to produce. Later Scottish single or double-edged Basket-Hilt broadsword blades from the late 1600s to mid-1700s came from the Solingen or Passau factory in Germany. Passau blades were especially prized, as the factory trademark, the Passua 'running wolf,' was considered a mark of high-quality steel for its day. The actor, Liam Neeson, carried a broadsword in "Rob Roy."

After the Jacobite rebellions, the broadsword was illegal to carry in Scotland for a long time except if you were a soldier in a British Highland regiment such as the Black Watch. Today the Scottish Basket-Hilt broadsword is still used by Highland military officers in ceremonial roles across the British Army.

Conclusion: Two "claymores", One-Handed and Two-Handed

All in all, the confusion between the two designs seems to be that the Scottish Single-Handed broadsword was the first Scottish sword design that was called a claymore 'claidheamh mór,' and then later,



MacDowall

The Claymore (cont)

other modern sources started using the term claymore for the older, Two-Handed Highland sword as well. I think Lord Campbell in his book potentially offered a practical explanation for both being called claymores over time: Since a lot of the early Scottish broadswords were created from earlier two-handed Highland swords, they are simply different forgings of the same blade (the same thing was done to dirks or Scottish long knives; forging dirks from broken or damaged broadswords – waste not, want not – we are talking about Scots after all!).

So, what's my conclusion? I would say this: in Gaelic, call:

- the Two-Handed Highland sword a claidheamh-dà làimh,
- the Basket-Hilt broadsword a claidheamh mór, and
- the Basket-Hilt broadsword single-edged backsword version a claidheamh-cuil.

For the 'Gaelically' language challenged like me, since both sword designs are claidheamh in Scottish Gaelic or "claymore" in English, you can call them both claymores and technically not be wrong. You could think of them as a big claymore or small claymore, and not be too far off; they are both in essence claymores. But whatever term you use, someone else out there may offer a different opinion.

As for me, although I like the term claymore for the Two-Hand Highland sword (okay, so I want to succumb to the Braveheart effect), I will stick to calling it a Highland Two-Handed sword, but I'm OK with the term big claymore too. I prefer the term Scottish Broadsword for the Basket-Hilt Single-Handed sword, but I'm OK with the term small claymore as well. Maybe a Scottish historical authority will one day make a formal academic recommendation on the terms, but until then, that's my perspective.

Below are some websites and books for you to peruse and make your own judgments if you like. The first three websites below capture the different perspectives somewhat succinctly; but other websites provide broader backgrounds if you really want to go in depth.

Note: A special thanks to Mr. Jonathan Gordon, one of the top Scottish broadsword instructors in the U.S. today (and my broadsword coach), who provided his thoughts and a few suggested edits on the article. However, any opinions, conjectures, conclusions, or misinterpretation of sources are totally my own.

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The Claymore (cont)

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Illustrations

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Clan MacDougall Society of North America



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Reference information for Society members

Get the most out of your membership!

About Your Society

As a registered 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit, CMSNA depends on the financial contributions of our members to fulfill our “literary, historical, and educational” purposes. The Society connects 750 clanfolk like you who want to celebrate, share and preserve our proud legacy. We rely on volunteers and no one receives compensation for their efforts.

The Value of Membership

Membership is rewarding and loyalty is widespread. More than 40-percent are 25-year contributors and nearly 300 have become Life Members. Your contributions are tax deductible in the U.S. Membership is on a calendar year basis and members must make a minimum yearly contribution of \$25 by December 31st to remain active. Life Memberships are also available. The minimum contribution only covers our basic operating expenses and allows you to enjoy our popular newsletters and special Society events that help build lasting relationships. Contributions in excess of the \$25 minimum make a significant difference in our funding for scholarships, historic site preservation and new programs. Please consider contributing above the minimum, because there's so much more we can accomplish.

Renewing Your Annual Membership is Easy

Make your annual renewal online by December 31st for the coming calendar year online through PayPal at: <https://macdougall.org/paypal/> or by postal mail to our Treasurer

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Treasurer Barry Marler, P.O. Box 239, Roy, UT 84067

Applications for Membership are available online at:

<http://www.macdougall.org/memberApp/>