



The Tartan



Journal of the
Clan MacDougall Society of North America

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Visit us at www.MacDougall.org

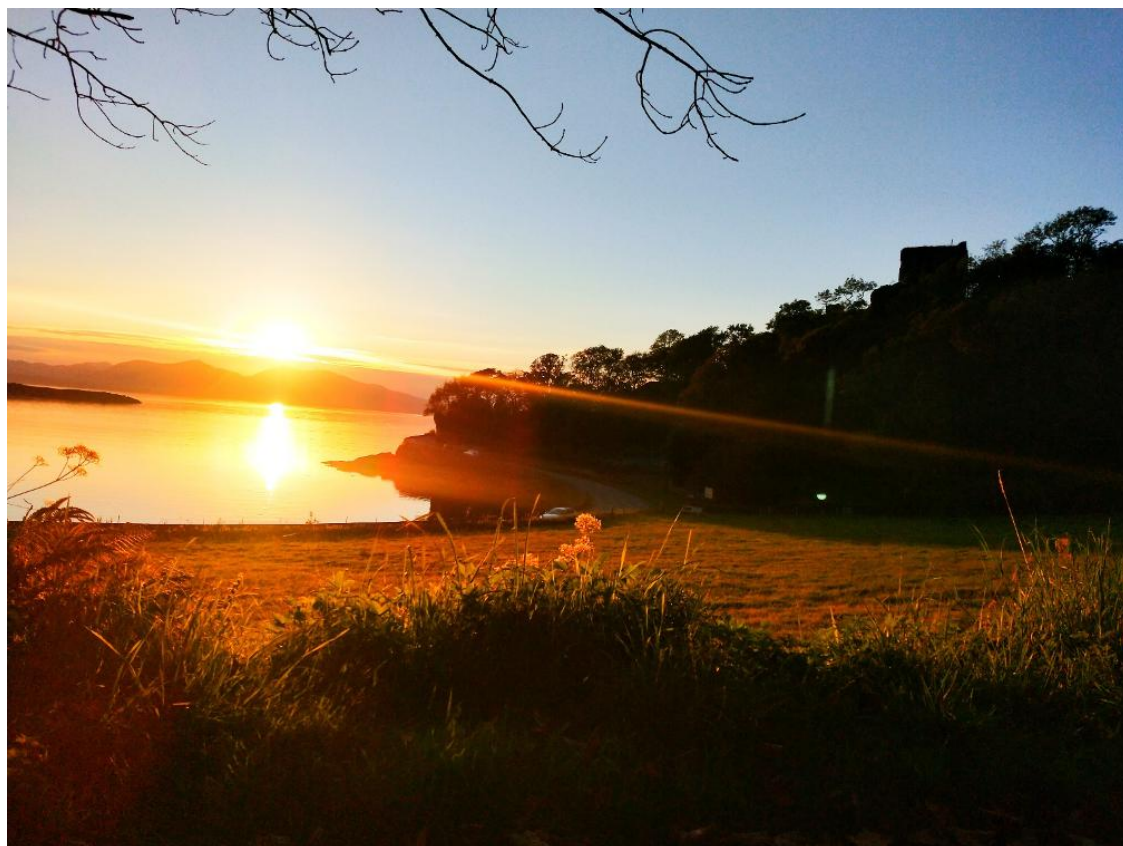
Apr 2023

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Dunollie Museum Update
- Search for the Kyle Family

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Dunollie Museum, Castle, and Grounds in 2023

We have been working extremely hard to make our grounds and heritage more accessible to all and to keep preserving it for future generations. Thanks to the generous support of this society, as well as several other organisations and private donors, we are pleased to be reopening for yet another season in 2023 with plenty of exciting updates to share with you.

We are delighted to be hosting Clan MacDougall's next gathering which will be taking place 30th July – 4th August 2024. We look forward to welcoming you all back to the clan's ancestral home to share all of our progress with you in person. We have appointed Fee Shaw as our Gathering Coordinator to plan the event and ensure its smooth running. She has done a fantastic job

Dunollie Museum (cont)

with this task in the past and will be starting up with us once again in May 2023. We expect tickets to go on sale at the end of autumn/fall 2023 – please keep an eye out for this and other updates on our website www.dunollie.org. If you are in need of a new kilt or would like to wear MacDougall Tartan for the occasion, please get in touch with the Draper's Shop (thedrapersshop@dunollie.org).

We are proud to say the third phase of our Castle consolidation work will be completed before the next clan gathering. The Castle



Conservation Team are busy applying for Scheduled Monument Consent from Historic Environment Scotland. This process can take up to twelve weeks and we are hoping to hear back from them by May 2023. During the summer we hope to carry out archaeological works on the 1st floor of the castle to excavate the eagle mosaic we know to be there. Our plans for November include undertaking a survey of the cliff below Dunollie Castle, removing the ivy still present on the Castle Keep itself and making plans to safely remove the ivy on the castle's remaining curtain walls. This was made possible thanks to funds raised and donated by the Clan MacDougall Society of North America, Historic Environment Scotland, and Trustees of the MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust.

Currently, our team is very busy planning for the 2023 season which will begin on Sunday 2nd April. We will be open 10 am – 4 pm, 6 days a week (Sunday-Friday), until the end of October. Tickets are available from our website www.dunollie.org or can be purchased from our Reception Booth upon



arrival. They include an opportunity to go on a free Guided Tour during weekdays at 11.30 am and 2 pm or to listen to traditional Scottish tunes by one of our young pipers on Sundays at 1.30 pm. These opening hours also apply to the Kettle Garden Café which serves refreshments, home baking, light lunches and snacks, and to the Draper's Shop which has a number of exciting Dunollie inspired items now available both onsite and online on www.thedrapersshop.org.

Dunollie Museum (cont)



Thanks to the Clan MacDougall Society of North America your generous contribution and that of the Oban Common Good Fund, Dunollie's Castle Handrail is now up! The location of Dunollie Castle atop a hill/cliff overlooking the sea and the inner Hebrides is a core part of its charm and identity but it always saddens us to have to turn people away due to the path's steepness. This new handrail is a great step forward in improving the accessibility of our site and we look forward to welcoming more visitors all the way up to the castle.

Whilst a considerable improvement to our site, this is just one of the many changes which have taken place ahead

of the new season. As part of the yearlong Dunollie Garden Links and Digital (GLAD) Project which was funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund for Scotland we have added several new features to our Grounds. Notably, a new wheelchair accessible path through the shrubbery which runs parallel to our other path and connects the Faerie Garden with the Willow Garden.



Visitors can now see our grounds from a whole new perspective by walking between the Old Stable Blocks and the pond and right by some of our dearest 19th century trees like the Giant Red Wood Sequoia



and the Monkey Puzzle Tree. As part of this project, we have also put together two new trails around our site. The first one is aimed at our adult visitors and provides an insight into different elements of the site and our history as one walks through the grounds thanks to new signage and

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MacDougall

Dunollie Museum (cont)

research. The second one is Dunollie's Mythical Creatures Trail and is made up of QR codes for children to scan to discover some of the magical beings of Scotland's Folklore as they explore Dunollie and its surrounding landscape.

Perhaps the most exciting change this year is that you can now get married in Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds!

If you have any questions about visiting us or supporting us, please just let us know by emailing info@dunollie.org. To stay in touch and find out more about everything happening in Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds in real time, follow us on Facebook: @DunollieOban and Instagram: @dunolliemuseumcastle.

– Florence Medard, Marketing and Communications Coordinator

(Cover photo "Dunollie Sunset" and other photos courtesy of MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust.)

From the Editor

Fifty-eight years ago my predecessor A. Wylie McDougall and his wife Mary, our first editors, created our first issue of *The Tartan*, a portion of which is displayed here. Today, our members can access more than 150 past newsletters archived on our website – every single one created by volunteer editors – often with articles and photos contributed by our members, officers and clan chiefs.

One paragraph in that first issue's front-page article about our new society said:

... Letters were received from thirty states. Nearly all the letters indicated an intense interest in genealogical and historical facts. We will answer as many questions as we can through articles in "THE TARTAN" and by correspondence.

Since that first issue in September 1965, our editors have strived to provide that information, and much more, to meet the interests and needs of our readers. For example, in this issue Jacqui DiCarlo's article is the first of a series about how she has been using genealogical tools and diligent research to trace her Kyle family back to pioneer times in North America and then back across the Atlantic to discover earlier ancestors in Ireland and Scotland. It is a detective story using modern tools to find long forgotten clues. Her story is not only interesting and well written; it also educates others who wish to do what she has done.



From the Editor (cont)

If you have stories of interest to tell about our two clans, or topics that you think may appeal to our diverse audience, you may contact me by email at editor@macdougall.org. There was once a time when that address did not forward email to me, but it does now. For briefer items you may wish to contact Lindsay Davis, the editor of our sister newsletter, The Raven, by email at newseditor@macdougall.org. Our newsletters are all about communicating with our members and, as your editors, Lindsay and I would like to hear from you.

If you have a book to review or a story about a historical event, craftwork, culture, dance or music, interesting photos, account of travel or tale about our clans – or perhaps an idea you wish to discuss – send an email to either of our newsletter editors so that we can discuss your idea with you. We will work with you to create articles on a wide variety of subjects which are of interest to our diverse membership. Perhaps you think there is something that ought to be in one of our newsletters but isn't – this might be the way for you to create that missing coverage – if you are willing to help create it. Perhaps we can also offer interesting ideas or suggest sources of information for your topic. We look forward to sharing your items with our readers.

Your editors and associate editors work behind the scenes and are not used to being in the spotlight, but none of us could have accomplished all of this without the help of our volunteers who find, gather and create what we print. I think it is time we acknowledge these men and women who have worked so diligently since 1965 to bring us The Tartan and since 2014, The Raven eNewsletter. They are:

The Tartan newsletter

1. Alexander Wylie McDougall & spouse Mary - Founding Editors (1965 - 1976)
2. Walter M. Macdougall & spouse Judy (1977 - 1984)
3. Howard W. MacDougall & spouse Marjorie (1984 - 1989)
4. Malcolm A. Macdougall & Co-editor father Walter M. Macdougall (1989 - 1991)
5. Nancy W. Van Valkenburgh (1991 - 1995)
6. Pat McDougal (1995 - 2010)
7. Peter Clepper (2010 - 2017) & Assoc. Editors Malcolm MacDougall and John McDowall
8. Scott MacDougald (2017 - present) & Assoc. Editors Malcolm MacDougall and John McDowall

The Raven newsletter

1. Malcolm MacDougall (2014 - 2015)
2. Ashby McCown (2015 - 2016)
3. Scott MacDougald (2016 - 2017)
4. Kyle Jones (2017 - 2020)
5. Lindsay Davis (2020 - present)

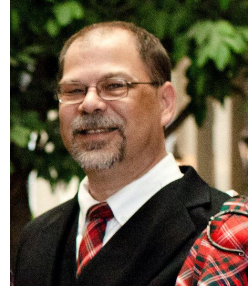
If you are interested in volunteering for anything within our society, please contact any of our officers and representatives or go to our web page <https://macdougall.org/volunteer/> and submit the form to tell us about your interests. Thank you for supporting our Society and our clans.



MacDowall

President's Message

Spring has finally sprung for most of us after a winter that can best be described as "interesting." Perhaps you were able to attend a Burn's night or Tartan Day celebration. I know of a few of you who were recently in Oban – and I am suitably jealous! I guess the rest of us can make it one more year until it is time for the big Clan Gathering.



Here at home, our volunteers are busy once more at game fields and festivals across North America. I hope you will all have the opportunity of meeting with each other and chatting at an event near you. Remember to visit www.macdougall.org/events often as the information continues to evolve.

If you are able, please consider joining us July 6-9 for our traditional annual gathering held in conjunction with the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in North Carolina. We will begin our time in this beautiful part of western North Carolina on Thursday evening (July 6) when several of us will gather before dusk at our Society Tent in MacRae Meadows to watch the impressive Opening Ceremonies and Torchlight display. It is a wonderful way to begin the festivities, setting the mood for the entire weekend.

This year marks the end of my term as Society President. We have arranged a traditional North Carolina banquet at the historic Dan'l Boone Inn on Saturday, July 8, where I will officially pass the baton to my trusted "Number One" Misha Lowther. A printable reservation form was included in the March edition of The Raven. You can also make your reservation online at <https://macdougall.org/foundersdinner/> (Don't delay. Seating is limited.)

Le dùrachdan // With best wishes

Kyle Jones

President, CMSNA

[Email Kyle](#)

[Donations](#)

[Visit Website](#)

Annual Founders Dinner Registration Form



-Dinner Menu-

- Southern Fried Chicken
- Country Style Steak
- Country Ham Biscuits
- Real Mashed Potatoes with Gravy
- Green Beans
- Cut Corn
- Fresh Stewed Apples
- Our Signature Coleslaw
- Buttermilk Biscuits
- Choice of Homemade Desserts
- Soup or Salad
- Black Cherry Preserves
- Beverage

FOUNDERS DINNER RESERVATION FORM

SATURDAY, JULY 8, 2023. DINNER AT 7:30 P.M.

**DAN'L BOONE INN
130 HARDIN ST, BOONE, NC 28607**

**SEATING IS LIMITED, PLEASE REGISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
THE BANQUET ROOM IS LOCATED ON THE 2ND FLOOR, ACCESSIBLE BY STAIRS ONLY.
THIS IS A FAMILY-ORIENTED BUSINESS. NO ALCOHOL IS ALLOWED.**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER (_____) _____ EMAIL _____

_____ NUMBER ATTENDING DINNER (\$30.00 EACH) _____ TOTAL REMITTED

SEND YOUR COMPLETED FORM AND PAYMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO:

**TREASURER BARRY MARLER
P. O. Box 239
Roy, UT 84067**

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: "CLAN MACDOUGALL SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA"

Misha Lowther

Soon-to-be President, Clan MacDougall Society of North America

Hello. My name is Micheal Lowther, but you can call me Misha. I am from Oklahoma and have lived here most of my life. I have been married longer than I ever lived at home. My husband and I have four children and a granddaughter...and a dog (who thinks she is human). I joined the Society in 2019. My eldest daughter was 19 and we believed we were to be empty nesters very soon. Little did I know what the man upstairs had in store for my life and my family.



In the summer of 2019, I became the State representative for the Society. My first Scottish Games (EVER!) was as a tent host in September of 2019. I suppose you could say I tend to “jump in with both feet” when I start something. Another illustration, if you will, “jumping in headfirst” I also became Secretary/ Archivist as Chris MacDougall became President Elect. Things soon changed for both Chris and me. It became necessary to make some changes. We traded titles/positions with the Board of Directors’ approval.

While I have been President Elect my focus has been on graphic design, social media, the updating of the coloring book as well as the social media sites and helping Kyle Jones – our current President – with the website. All of this accumulatively shows my personal focus is on our members and expanding the membership numbers. Kyle and I have worked hard at updating the graphics, print materials, and social media sites for the last two and a half years. We have also worked hard at filling some vacancies in our volunteer positions. I intend to continue this goal when I take the position of President in July of 2023 – if you wish to know more about becoming one of our Volunteers in your area please contact me!



I admire Kyle and his determination, his steadfastness, and his loyalty to ALL of the projects he has undertaken as President and before. He has left some big shoes to fill when my turn as President comes around. He will be a great mentor and friend when we are no longer working as closely as President and President Elect. That is the part I am looking forward to. His family is wonderful and a great support as well. It has been a pleasure getting to know them.

I have met and worked with many of you over the past thirty months who have been a great support to me and each of you is greatly appreciated. My time in office as President of Clan MacDougall Society of North America will be quite an interesting and fulfilling time. I know I have a great team in the Board of Directors and the mentors and friends that I have made along the way. Thank you!

Misha Lowther (cont)

Personally, I am the eldest of nine children all together. I have been around children and large families all my life. Every job position I have ever held has been customer service oriented.

I taught myself graphic design in the early 90's and the next step was to teach myself web design. I was involved in several entrepreneurial endeavors with my Husband throughout our years together (and still am involved). I have been a student, a Mother, an Aunt, a pet owner, and a business owner over the years. I have varied hobbies such as: photography, scuba



diving, falconry, crafting, comic cons, baking, and more. Now, I am also a grandmother and a member and Executive Officer of a non-profit organization.

I am looking forward to meeting with and getting to know more of you over the next three years. The 2024 Clan MacDougall Gathering in Oban is going to be amazing! I get to be President of CMSNA on my first trip (ever) to Scotland. I hope I live up to the expectations of the members of our Society as well as the Past Presidents who held office before me.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent our Society and for standing beside me throughout the journey over the next three years.

Misha Lowther

President Elect



MacDowall

Search for the Kyle Family

Finding Forgotten Ancestors on the Internet

By: Jacci DiCarlo

Clan MacDougall and Clan MacDowall not only have a historical friendship with each other but also with numerous other clans and families that have called the Western Coastline of Scotland their home. The Kyles of Ayrshire are one such family. But anybody who has attempted to research the history of the Kyle family has quickly learned that for centuries, Kyles have taken their vanishing act to every corner of the world. Today's Kyles often find family records that date back at most three or (if they are lucky) four generations.

Records prior to that have been scant and the lives of family ancestors have been remembered only for as long as their children and grandchildren have lived to tell stories about them. When the storyteller's breath fades, so does the memory of his grandparent or great-grandparent. Many of today's Kyles (I among them) have taken to the internet to attempt to resurrect the memory of the lost generations of their ancestors. This is the story of how I learned to use an ancestry website to bring life back to the withered leaves on my family tree.



When I set up my account with Ancestry.com, the first hints to pop up were the connections to my living relatives, mostly immediate family. When looking at the connections to my father's branch of my family, I saw that my 1st cousin's wife had done a great deal of research. I had not seen any of my cousins in over 20 years, and I had never met her. But I was able to see the public version of her family tree, and I noticed that the Kyle branch of her tree stopped at the same point as my Kyle branch, my father's great grandfather, Thomas James Kyle. I sent a message to my cousin's wife, Aimee.

Aimee's initial advice to get rid of anything in my tree that simply came from other trees made me feel insecure at first. I was sure that when I was done "pruning" my tree, there would be nothing left of it. But as I started going through my tree and deleting everything that came from other trees, I saw that I now had a manageable tree. Nobody was born to multiple mothers and nobody was giving birth to their own parents. It didn't take long to understand what was wrong with taking hints from other trees. Every beginner does it, and with so many people doing it, it's difficult to tell how many times one piece of false information has been passed from one tree to the next, kind of like oak wilt. From that point forward, I became judicious with what information I would use to fertilize my tree. I didn't completely ignore hints from other trees. But I did stop adding information from them to my tree without doing thorough research.

Three things happened when I reached out to Aimee. I reunited with my long-lost cousin and his wife, I learned the value of making connections with others who are actively researching the same ancestry, and I came to understand the difference between the easy button and records.

Search for the Kyle Family (cont)

Aimee and I had spent countless hours texting each other with leads that would eventually provide a huge break in our search for the origin of my father's great grandfather. She provided a 2nd pair of eyes that helped me to not simply accept new records without any proof of their relevance to my tree. Amid those hours, we also became an important part of each other's lives. Because of that, we would eventually take our research efforts on the road and visit one of the places where our distant ancestors had lived. But that story is for another article. While the research aspect of this relationship was certainly valuable, I would come to treasure the relationship itself.

After realizing the value of connections with others who were researching the same ancestors as was I, I started to look for other Kyles on the ancestry website. I sent messages to a few of them and I got a response from one, named Jeannie who was interested in the story of my 2nd great grandfather, Thomas Kyle. Jeannie found it interesting that Thomas' 1st historical record was his marriage in 1880 to a woman who was roughly 20 years his junior. So, she and I continued to talk. Not only did she refresh my enthusiasm, but she also gave me some great advice. She told me to have my DNA tested. In doing that, we would find out if we were related through a DNA match. We were disappointed when my DNA results came back and we were not a match.

Jeannie continued to help me with my research. She helped me organize all of my DNA matches on the site so that I could see who of them might also be a descendant of Thomas Kyle. Nearly all of these matches had trees that either didn't go back far enough to include Thomas or they stopped at the same point where my tree stopped, at the 1880 marriage of Thomas and Nannie. But there was one match that was different. When I followed the hints in this person's tree, there was a story associated with one of her ancestors. In 1874, just two counties from where Thomas' 1880 marriage took place, there was a Thomas J Kile who left his wife and two daughters and was never seen again. In 1880, he was presumed dead. It wasn't a "real record". But the DNA match paired with that story convinced me that I had traced my Thomas J Kyle at least one step further back in his life. With the introduction of this version of Thomas J Kyle, Jeannie and I created an alternative tree where we could test out various theories. Although my DNA test didn't show any relation to Jeannie, when it pointed to the descendants of Robert Kyle, of Hampshire County, West Virginia, it did reveal that Jeannie and I are in fact 5th cousins. Her 4th great-grandfather was Robert's brother, James. So, in this case, the combination of DNA and records revealed a familial trail that connected Jeannie and me.

While DNA provides great leads, real records are the fertilizer for a family tree. And real records are limited on all of the ancestry websites. Records are deposited there by members who have found them elsewhere. So, I needed to take my search elsewhere. But I had no idea where to get those records. Many of the records from Thomas' era were destroyed in fires during the American Civil War. So, I searched on Amazon for books with titles that included the name of Kyle. I found and ordered *A Partial History Of The Kyle, Kile, Coyle Family In America: With Some Scotch, Irish And English Background* by Orville Merton Kile. It was 174 pages of somewhat disjointed Kyle history that had been compiled in the 1940s. But it referenced real records. Until I obtained this book, I didn't even know what to look for, let alone where to find it. But once I had this book, the sources of records seemed almost endless. Those sources would eventually point to a magnificent trail of Kyle migration across the globe. That too is a story for another article.

Search for the Kyle Family (cont)

Between friendships, DNA and records, I have been able to determine from which branch of the Kyle family my 2nd great grandfather came. I now know that his grandfather (my 4th great) was Robert Kyle of Hampshire County West Virginia. The current mystery is the identity of Thomas' father, the bridge between Robert and Thomas James. The current theory is that he is one of Robert's two youngest sons, James or Daniel, who were both under the age of 8 when Robert died. For now, my journey has given me a few long-sought answers, some new and wonderful personal relationships, and a mountain of real records to sort through. There is no doubt that there are more answers to come. Today, the Kyles are just a little less elusive than they once were. This map and the text below it show my journey of discovery so far.



1. Hampshire County, WV: Thomas J Kyle's grandfather, Robert raised his 12 children here before his death in 1813. This is also the presumed birthplace of Thomas J Kyle (est. 1830-1834) and of Eliza J House (est. 1825). Thomas J and Eliza J met here during the Civil War.
2. Mason County, KY: Robert purchased property here in the later years of his life before he died in his long-time home in West Virginia. Several of Robert's children were here in 1841, including Daniel, James, Elizabeth, and at least one of their older brothers, Thomas.
3. Fairfield County, OH: Thomas J and Eliza J Kyle (spelled Kile at the time) lived here with their children when the 1870 census was taken. Thomas J disappeared in 1874 and this family presumed him dead in 1880.
4. Ross County, OH: In 1799, Robert Kyle's oldest son, William traveled here by foot from Hampshire County, WV, and made a new home. In 1880, Thomas J Kyle married Nannie Eisnaugel here.
5. Allen County, OH: Thomas J Kyle spent the last years of his life here dying in 1920.

The story will continue in the next issue of The Tartan as I seek ways to find forgotten ancestors across the ocean.

Reference:

A Partial History of the Kyle, Kile, Coyle Family in America: With Some Scotch, Irish and English Background, Privately Published, 1958. Kile, Orville Merton.