



The Tartan



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- MacDougall
Gathering 2024
- Search for the Kyle
Family

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Clan MacDougall Gathering 2024:Dunollie Welcomes You

The team at Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds is delighted to be hosting the next International Clan MacDougall Gathering which will be taking place between Tuesday 30th July and Sunday 4th August 2024, all inclusive. We look forward to welcoming clan members from all around the world, to see some familiar faces from the 2019 gathering and meet many of you for the first time.

This gathering is a fantastic opportunity for the clan to regroup and reconnect in their ancestral home. We are putting together a schedule filled with a wide range of activities so that each participant can tailor their visits to their own personal interests and preferences and make the most of being in this beautiful and historic part of the world. These will include opportunities to visit our beautiful region, the town of Oban and some of the nearby islands as well as learn more about the clan's history and its roots by walking in your ancestors footsteps in key

places, sites and monuments of historical importance with ties to the

Dunollie Welcomes You (cont)

MacDougall clan, as well as moments to socialise and exchange with other clan relatives and explore Scottish culture, take part in whisky tastings and more.

To attend the gathering you will need have registration tickets, which are currently on sale through our website. You will need these to book onto the specific events we have planned for you on each day of the gathering. Most of these will have limited spaces available and so we recommend booking them online well in advance as places will be allocated on a first-come first-serve basis. We expect to have these as well as a detailed event programme ready for you over the winter months. Tickets and all information can be found on the dedicated page of our website:

www.dunollie.org/clan-macdougall-gathering-2024.



We are also very pleased to have Fee Shaw return to us as Gathering Coordinator. Fee is the brains behind this operation and has been working with us one day a week for the last few months to plan next year's gathering. She is very experienced in this field having already planned the 2019 Gathering and spending the rest of her working week working to ensure live performances and large-scale events tour across the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

Whilst we are working hard to prepare for your arrival and offer the most exciting and memorable event programme as we can, you are responsible for making your own travel arrangements to Oban (the small town on the west coast of Scotland next to which Dunollie Castle is situated) as well as finding your own accommodation for the duration of your stay. We recommend doing both of these things well in advance as this will help you secure the best deals in terms of prices and choice both.

If you haven't travelled to Oban, Scotland before or if you're wondering what to expect from a Clan Gathering at Dunollie, please contact us on info@dunollie.org and our Marketing and Communication Coordinator, Florence, will do her best to help you know what to expect and plan your trip with a bit of local knowledge.

Best wishes from Dunollie, Scotland

– Florence Medard, Marketing and Communications Coordinator

Photos courtesy of MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust

Instagram: [@dunolliemuseumcastle](https://www.instagram.com/dunolliemuseumcastle)

Website: www.dunollie.org

Facebook: [@DunollieOban](https://www.facebook.com/DunollieOban)

Dunollie Welcomes You (cont)

Editor's Note

Scotland is well prepared for visitors and offers many sources of information for travellers. Some of my favourites are:

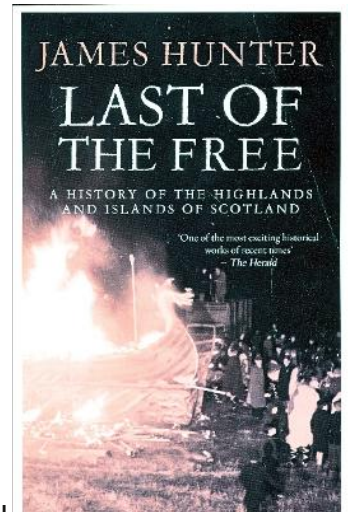
1 - LOVE OBAN at <https://www.oban.org.uk/about-oban/>

2 - VisitScotland at <https://www.visitscotland.com/> It has a wide range of information including a page on Ferry travel to the numerous islands of Firth of Clyde and the Inner and Outer Hebrides at <https://www.visitscotland.com/travel-planning/getting-around/ferry> Many of the Hebrides island ferries to Islay, Lismore, Mull, Iona, Tiree and other islands dock conveniently near to the rail and bus depots at the port of Oban though other ports are used as well.

Last of the Free

The cover photo of my well-worn and well-thumbed paperback shows how many times I have re-read this gem of a book. Scottish historian James Hunter's wide ranging account spans ten thousand years of Scotland's past, but focuses on the period of history recorded following the arrival of the Romans. This is the one I go to when I want to get an understanding of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

I used to think of Scotland and its history in terms of clans and battles like the ones we see depicted in the media, but then I asked myself: "What was it like before there were clans?" If you want to know the answer, then I suggest you read LAST OF THE FREE. That quest led me to the Gaels and the Picts whose ancestral tribes fought the conquering Romans to an uneasy centuries-long standoff that remains engraved upon the landscape by two east-west walls – the Antonine Wall between the River Clyde and the Firth of Forth, and Hadrian's wall of stone about 100 miles (160 km) farther south. What I like about James Hunter is that he explains with fascinating details why these events happened. For example, the book's title is taken from a Roman account of a defiant speech which their enemy, Calgacus, made to rouse his people to battle against becoming enslaved by Rome – then Hunter explains



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MacDougall

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that Calgacus' magnificent oratory was probably a literary device used by the Roman historian to embellish his biography of his father-in-law – the victorious General Agricola who defeated Calgacus at Mons Graupius somewhere in the Highlands.

After the Romans retreated homeward three hundred years later, they left behind a Christianized area of former client states in southern Scotland which retained their religion while other western portions of the old Roman empire adopted the pagan beliefs of invading European tribesmen. It was here, near Carlisle, that St. Patrick's autobiography says he was born and, though he became famous for spreading Christianity into northern Ireland, many other proselytizers went unrecorded. Their monasteries with their scriptoriums preserving and copying manuscripts made Ireland, and nearby locations such as Whithorn, Galloway and the Isle of Iona, into bastions preserving knowledge lost elsewhere during the dark ages of the early medieval period. For the next four centuries, their Christian civilization sent out monks, hermits and missionaries to spread learning and re-Christianize the British and European mainlands. The evangelical traffic to dark age Europe established major sea trade routes for commerce through the Irish Sea and adjacent Hebrides before the arrival of the Vikings. This and much more are the subjects of the first two chapters – but there are seven more.

Subsequent chapters take us through the era of clans; explaining how clans such as ours and our Clan Donald cousins survived and thrived while resisting waves of outside pressures – until they could no longer withstand the military power of central governments that could afford the powerful new weapons of the gunpowder revolution. That period was followed by a twilight era of weakened clans ineffectively ruled by a weak central government unable to properly provide for its Gaelic people – had it wished to. Clearance and emigration were thought to be cures for wretched conditions after the valuable fighting men were no longer required for military service against Napoleon. Then, after the 1850s, some efforts to improve the decimated Highland economy and culture began and the trend has continued to today. If you want to understand the Highlands and Islands then you should read **LAST OF THE FREE**. Originally published in 1999 and since reprinted, it is still available from Amazon and other booksellers. It is well-worth searching out this wide-ranging, well-told story of Scotland's past and present.

Scott MacDougald

Editor

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President's Message

Faillte air mo charaidean. (Welcome my friends.)

I have always dreamed of the Scottish Highlands though I have never been to Scotland. Movies like “Highlander”, “The Water Horse Legend of the Deep”, “Brave Heart”, “King Arthur”, “Rob Roy”, “A Castle for Christmas”, “Brave”, and many more always (not to mention Sean Connery) made me dream of Scotland and still do! As a teen and young adult, I never thought of why. I just chalked it up to my curious nature, movies and love for all things mystical, magical, and part of nature. When I say mythical and magical, I mean it in such a way as to inspire dreams and imagination. All places seem mythical until you actually, physically visit them and even then, some places leave you wondering if it was just a dream. I imagine my first trip to Scotland to our International Clan MacDougall Gathering in 2024 will seem like that to me for a while. As I was saying, I have a curious nature and it wasn't until I connected with our family history and learned of my Scottish heritage that things became clearer to me. Now I find myself as President of CMSNA with a global group who share that passion. I am looking forward to getting to know as many members as possible and to growing our supporters, our volunteers, and our horizons.



Each new supporting member assists in our purposes with each contribution made. Our heritage, our traditions, and our culture inspire such passion that I am hopeful many more will decide to pick up the mantle of supporting member. Every membership donation, scholarship donation, heritage donation, and fundraising contribution made, makes it possible for us as a nonprofit to carry on in a volunteer capacity to share all of our culture, heritage, and traditions with each new generation. Many will say this is preaching to the choir. But when you are passionate about something, someone, some project, you share it with everyone who will listen!

I am excited to be President of Clan MacDougall Society of North America (CMSNA). I want to take this time to say “Thank You!” for making this opportunity possible. Thank you to a great team of Board Members. Thank You to some wonderful, awesome, amazing people who host a tent on any given weekend to keep us connected at the festivals all over the United States and Canada. Thank you for the mentors and friends who have supported me as Tanist and encouraged me in my role as President. Thank You to all those who have come before me to set the table that I stand before right now. These next three years can see more mountains moved and more spectacular things happen as we come together as a united team and help each other serve together for the good of Clan MacDougall Society of North America. Join me! Share with friends, with family, with co-workers, strangers, and anyone who will listen to the wonders of having a Scottish heritage like ours!

Sláinte Mhath!

Misha Lowther
President, CMSNA



MacDowall

Search for the Kyle Family

Identifying 16th and 17th Century Ancestors

By: Jacci DiCarlo



When I was growing up in the American Midwest, precious little information was available to me about the history of my surname, Kyle. My father told me it was an Irish name. But when I saw a map of Ireland plastered with Irish names and their origins, Kyle wasn't on that map. My great-uncle told me that the Kyles were originally from Scotland, and they moved to Ireland. For years, I wondered from where in Scotland the Kyles had come, and to where in Ireland they moved. I wanted a timeline filled in with names, dates, and locations. Today, I have that timeline. It isn't quite finished, but it does have some names, dates, and surprisingly specific locations. This is the story of how my European ancestral timeline came to be.

While it is true that one needs actual records to confidently trace a family lineage, it is also true that the further one goes back in history, the more likely it is that the trail of records will be abruptly interrupted by catastrophic destruction. The Kyle lineage has suffered two such interruptions, one during the American Civil War and one during the Irish Civil War. It is the latter that has impacted my search for the European history of the Kyle family. On 30 June 1922, during the opening engagement of the Irish Revolution, the Public Records Office in Dublin was bombarded and nearly all the preceding four centuries of Irish records were consumed by fire.

Although the conventional records of the Irish people were lost in 1922, some of the more obscure, handwritten records remained in private keeping in homes, taverns, and churches throughout Ireland and Northern Ireland. Various current-day organizations in both countries have engaged in the task of gathering these records and making them available to the public. Many of them have been collected and made available for easy access through genealogy websites like Ancestry.com, Familytreedna.com, and Familysearch.org. Together, those sites would be a great starting point for my journey.

Before I could search for records of my Kyle ancestors, I needed to know exactly who my Kyle ancestors were. There are several variations of DNA tests available, Familytreedna.com offers the test that was most helpful to me, the Y-DNA test. This test focuses entirely on the Y-chromosome. Being female, I needed the cooperation of a male member of my family that didn't descend from me. I was quite pleased when my 80-year-old father allowed me to swab his cheek for this test. When his test results came back, I entered his kit number in the Coil/Coyle/Kile/Kyle group project on Familytreedna.com. My father's data was grouped with several other people who had traced their DNA back to Patrick Kyle of 17th century County Tyrone, in Northern Ireland. So, the Kyles of County Tyrone became the primary focus of my research.

Claiming over twenty million members in their DNA bank, Ancestry.com appeared to be the easiest place to start looking for information on the Kyles of County Tyrone. Initially, this site did not disappoint. I found dozens of family trees that referenced Patrick Kyle in the 1600s. Many of these trees shared a claim that he married "Lady Agnes Stuart". The notion

Search for the Kyle Family (cont)

seemed romantic but unlikely. There was a historical Lady Agnes Stuart. She was the daughter of James Stewart, 1st Earl of Buchan and Margaret Murray. Her life spanned 1470 to 1556. Although she married four times, she never married any Kyles. So, why did so many trees bear this false information that she married Patrick Kyle, a man who was born decades after her death? I started looking for the origin of this common myth.

One by one, I searched each of the family trees that bore the Kyle / Stuart myth. Most of them had no records to back the claim in their trees. But eventually, I found the original source of the myth. One tree cited a book, *The Commissariat Record of Glasgow, Register of testaments, 1547-1800*. The book is available at Openlibrary.org. The name "Kyle" appears 17 times in the book. On page 266, there is an entry that reads: "Kyle, Agnes, relict of Patrick Steuart, Sailor in Saltcoats, par. of Ardrossan, 30 Apr. 1730".

Myth busted. I didn't know who Patrick Kyle's wife was, but it certainly wasn't Lady Agnes Stuart.

The earliest Irish record of Patrick Kyle I was able to find was a hearth money roll record from 1666. This was a tax that was imposed from 1662 -1689, so the record I wanted was not difficult to find using the word search feature at Cotyroneireland.com. Patrick Kyll paid a hearth tax in Termonamongan Parish in 1666. John and Laurence Kyll were listed as paying the same tax in other Parishes and William Kyll was listed in 1662 in the subsidy roll for Donagheady Parish. These men were likely Patrick's brothers or other close relatives.

I noticed in the hearth tax records that in the 1660s, the name had the unusual spelling of "Kyll". Although my focus was mainly on this family in Ireland, I wanted to have at least an idea of where they had come from in Scotland. So, I registered an account with Scotlandspeople.gov.uk and purchased some credits. I did not find Patrick Kyll born in 1600. But I did find Patrik Kyll baptized in 1589. This Patrik had a significantly older brother, Alexander, baptized 1576. I surmised that Patrick Kyll who was in Ireland in 1666 may have been Alexander's son. Everything I had seen in family trees on Ancestry.com had claimed Ayrshire as Patrick's place of origin. But records at scotlandspeople.gov.uk revealed that this family lived in Monifeith east of Dundee, and in Haddington east of Edinburgh. Convinced that these were in some measure, Patrick's people, I was ready to refocus on the Kyles of 17th-century Ireland.

In April 2021, I received an email from a woman in Northern Ireland who had heard that I was researching the Kyle family. She sent me a copy of a handwritten family tree that referenced Patrick Kyle and his children and grandchildren. She asked that I not publicly share images of the document since she was unsure if some of the people in it may have still been alive. Although that doesn't seem possible, I've honored her wish. For me, the person of most interest was Patrick's son, John. The notes appearing under his name stated that he was "d. before 1710" and listed him as "party to the original Mournebeg lease". It wasn't clear whether "d" referred to his death or his departure to another location. But I had seen John in several of the ancestry trees on Ancestry.com that included Patrick. Other entries on the handwritten tree from John's generation (his brothers) referenced the "1736 Brackey deed". This reference also appeared under their father, Patrick, but with the year 1737. From that note, I was able to search the databank of memorial deeds at Familysearch.org. It was a tedious process of filtering through page after page of microfilmed images of old deeds. But I found it. In this deed, dated

Search for the Kyle Family (cont)

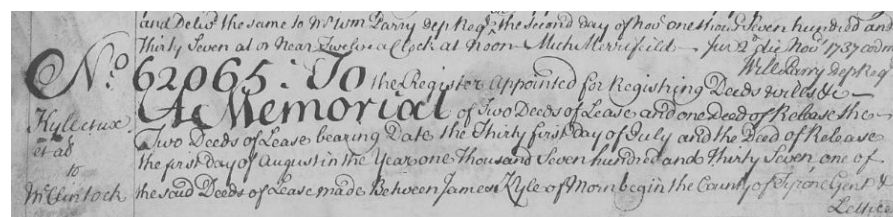
July 31, 1737, Patrick's grandson, James, and great-grandson Arthur released portions of their land to John McClintock. Just as the family tree said, Patrick was mentioned in this lease.

Finding the Brackey deed of 1737 and the date of the Mournebeg lease of 1683 empowered me to dig deeper. Exactly where are these places? Bracky is listed at Townlands.ie as a Townland a few miles east of Omagh, in County Tyrone. Mournebeg is approximately three miles south of Castlederg, also in County Tyrone. I was able to find the exact location of the Mournebeg property by searching the name "Kyle" at Cotyroneireland.com. The search highlighted all of the occurrences of the name on the page. There were several mills in the county owned by the people I had seen in that handwritten family tree. The Kyles had two flax mills at Mournebeg, each with exact global addresses. So, I copied one of them and pasted it in a map application to find exactly where these mills were. The global address I used was W7.6412969183, N54.6958031788. On the map, this location appeared just north of the River Mournebeg on Magherenageergh Road. According to the website, the land at that global address and the house on it were occupied by Kyles in 1924, when it was evaluated. The site didn't give a date for the mill across the street. However, there is a property history for the land and buildings across the street. In 2021, I saw the property listed for sale by a local real estate agent which showed an overview of several structures in ruin. Although it had been long abandoned, it was most recently occupied by the Church of Ireland. It appears that the Kyle family at some point relinquished rights to the property in favor of the Church.

For the moment, I was pleased to have filled in part of my European ancestral timeline with these names, dates, and locations. Through the contributions of my father's DNA and a few rather obscure old Irish records, I have been able to determine that I descend from Patrick Kyle of Brackey, County Tyrone. Additionally, I now know where some of his children and grandchildren lived and when they sold his land. They were not a branch of a royal family

as some of their descendants believe. I have discovered that they were an Ulster-Scot family that owned and leased land in Northern Ireland during the turbulent 17th century.

My research had borne enough fruit to warrant



The above image was taken from a portion of the 1737 Brackey Deed as it appears in the databank of memorial deeds at Familysearch.org

planning a trip to Northern Ireland to see some of the places where my 17th-century ancestors lived. But that is another story.

References

(1901). The Commissariat Record of Glasgow Register of Testaments 1547-1800, Parts 9-13, Old Series Volume 7 (p. 266). The Scottish Record Society.