



The Tartan



Journal of the
Clan MacDougall Society of North America

Volume 58, No. 2

Visit us at www.MacDougall.org

Sep 2024

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Rembering Richard Morley
- International Gathering Report

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Richard Morley

Richard Morley passed from this life to the next on August 15th, 2024 at Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban, Argyll, Scotland surrounded by family.

Richard Morley married Morag MacDougall of MacDougall and Dunollie at St. Columba's Church at Argyll Square in Oban, on 30th of July 1966.

He is survived by his wife, Morag - 31st Chief of Clan MacDougall; his son Robin; his daughter, Fiona (the Maid of Lorn) and her husband, Ivan; their 2 daughters Elke and Lyra; and many family members and friends not named here.

We will miss Richard. It has been such a pleasure to meet with him over the years, particularly at our International Gatherings when many of us have the rare pleasure to meet our Chief and her family. We keep many stories of these

encounters in our heart. Our most sincere condolences to the family.

God bless each and every person who knew Richard Morley as we mourn his loss with his Family.



The International 2024 Clan MacDougall Gathering July 30 – August 4

President's Report

Welcome Tartan Readers! Wow! Do I have some exciting times to share with you! The **International 2024 Clan MacDougall Gathering** took place in Oban as most of you are aware. This was my very first trip ever “across the pond” as they say. The flight and the time I spent there were absolutely amazing. I truthfully do not have better words to explain what a wonderful time I spent in Scotland.

The opening ceremony was a welcome speech by Tony Hill, a Dunollie Preservation Trustee; followed by Emma Sutcliffe also a DP Trustee, and the third speaker – the Lord-Lieutenant of the Royal Family for Argyll and Bute in Scotland. This person attends gatherings, events, and functions to represent the Royal Family when they cannot be



present themselves. Impressive to know that the Royal Family could have been present. If that doesn't clue you in on the importance of our Gathering, well, let's just say I personally was surprised and elated. After opening ceremonies, I had the opportunity to personally meet our 31st Chief, Madam Morag MacDougall of MacDougall and Dunollie.

She had come down to the

Marquee Tent in hopes of meeting up with CMSNA former and current Presidents and other persons attending the International Gathering. Our hostess and her family are lovely and amazing people. We could not have asked for better hosts. The Dunollie staff and Events team were also very welcoming and amazing! This was a VERY busy time for them – sort of like a weeklong “rush hour” for those of us here in the United States. Yet I have to mention this one very gratifying observation: Not once in all my time in Oban (or Scotland) did I find a cross, angry, or upset person in any situation. For me, myself, that is such a hard notion to fathom. However, I promise you, it is very true and accurate. I spent most of my first day at Dunollie with Morag MacDougall, her husband Richard, daughter Fiona and her two grandchildren. This was such an unexpected treat. Our hosts for this Gathering were involved in all aspects of the goings on. It was entirely a treat to see and experience.



President's Report (cont)



I also got to meet Robin Burnham and his family. I know you may be wondering why this is such a momentous thing to mention here. Well, William L. MacDougall was the author of "Kings in the West Beyond the Sea" which is an "Informal history of the Clan MacDougall." William has passed on and Robin Burnham now holds the rights to William L. MacDougall's works – a book I hope many of you will read if you haven't already. In honor of Robin's great uncle William, Robin wished to sign the new 2nd Edition documents at Dunollie with a quill. What a lovely honor to be a part of and to witness. We needed a few things to make this happen and the sewing ladies of Dunollie were a tremendous help. In the photo here of Robin signing the book's documents, you can see our inventive and unique quill. It is wrapped in MacDougall Tartan given by the sewing ladies

of The Draper's Shop at Dunollie. Robin has graciously decided to honor his great uncle yet again by donating the proceeds of this book sold on lulu.com to help CMSNA provide more assistance to the repairs and maintenance of our heritage sites.



What are heritage sites? Dunollie Castle, Museum and Grounds; Kilbride (the cemetery of our Clan MacDougall Chiefs); Gylen Castle to name a few. Each of these historic sites needs help with maintenance, repairs, and more, just as our homes require from us. Seeing our Clan Chief so involved and visiting with all of her guests along with the entire family was just such a tender realization and truly touched my heart. In the photo are Morag, Former CMSNA

President Dick MacDougall, his daughter Anne (our RC for Northeast Region), and Morag's husband Richard.



There were plenty of events, tours, and such happening at Dunollie this week of our International Gathering. Pictured below on one of the tours of the Castle and Grounds are Doug Fowler and his wife. I had the chance to meet so many people from our Society at the Gathering in Oban 2024. The tours were very informative and thoroughly enjoyable to all as far as I have

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MacDougall

President's Report (cont)



heard. We had an event titled "Evening at Dunollie" which was a lovely evening outside the museum with a live band and the opportunity to tour the museum and walk the gardens. One young lady, Erin, even had the opportunity to celebrate her 9th birthday at the Gathering! How wonderful and amazing can a birthday celebration get? Erin and her Mom seemed to enjoy every aspect of Dunollie. I know I did!

I also got to see first-hand some of the maintenance and repairs our Society has assisted Dunollie with. One such project was a handrail up to the Castle Keep, and a handrail inside the Castle. It is merely a rope handrail but let me tell you it is sturdier than any rope I have seen used as a handrail. The rope style handrail is due to not having the ability to stabilize things by inground methods. Being a historic site means preserving more than just the surface areas. The University of Glasgow actually has archaeological digs on site for their students. Talk about a treat! The study of History....and I was just amazed to BE on site.



Speaking of amazement, I had the privilege of a formal tea with our Clan Chief in her Family



Home. Of course I wasn't the only one to have tea but it was a spectacular event for me. I love having tea parties with my daughters and my granddaughter so this just upped my game. I would like to take this moment and opportunity to say to our hostess and her family: "Thank you. You far surpassed my expectations and made me feel so very welcome and part of it all. It was so wonderful and I shall never forget my time in Oban nor my time at Dunollie. The people here, including yourselves, are heartwarming and

wonderful. I can't wait to share the next Gathering with my children and family."

Over the weekend, towards the close of our International Gathering of MacDougalls from all over the world, we were privileged to see reenactments of musketeers and cannons demonstrating the way these items would have been used in the days of Dunollie in a bygone era. I know many of you have seen the reenactments of olden times through various settings such as renaissance festivals, Highland Games, and possibly theater groups. But to see such a thing in a place that has no modern signage, props, or distractions



President's Report (cont)



is quite something. It was truly like walking into history.

The Ceilidh was also a very special occasion to attend. Our gracious hosts attended as a family along with many of the Dunollie Preservation Trustees. It was great to meet with and talk with many of our would-be members of CMSNA. I believe that we even had some join our numbers in membership either during or after the Gathering. What a celebration for us! The Ceilidh was a grand bit of dancing, dinner, and celebration of a people spread out all over the world coming together to celebrate ONE HERITAGE.

The **March to Dunollie** was a reminder of the closing of the Gathering in 2024. This closing marks the end of our time with our Chief here in Oban. It was a beautiful morning for a walk along the bay to the grounds of Dunollie for the “March of the Tartan”. Many shared in the festivities and in the reenactments while they were there for the weekend. It was a grand sight to see the banners flying in Oban at Dunollie

....Can YOU imagine?....

Well I was there, and at times, I wonder if I dreamed it all up so... IF you can imagine it and would like to see it in person for yourself, the next International Gathering is but 5 years away. Let's get together again then!

Yours Truly,

Misha Lowther, CMSNA President



Kings in the West Beyond the Sea

First published in 2001, *Kings In The West Beyond The Sea* was written as an informal history of Clan MacDougall of Argyll, Scotland from the time of the great Norse-Gael warrior king, Somerled. His numerous Highland and Hebridean descendant clans dominated western Scotland for over three centuries. They include Clan MacDougall, and Clan Donald with its dozen or more offspring clans.

With the support of Society President Richard MacDougal, the original book by Society member, William L. MacDougall, was published to raise funds for preservation work on Gylen Castle on the Isle of Kerrera. After being out of print, an updated Second Edition expanded to 184 pages with new content, including Y-DNA projects and genealogy, has just been published by the Clan MacDougall Society of North America on www.lulu.com. This is where the Society already publishes *Journeying in MacDougall Country* and *The MacDowalls* books which we distribute globally.

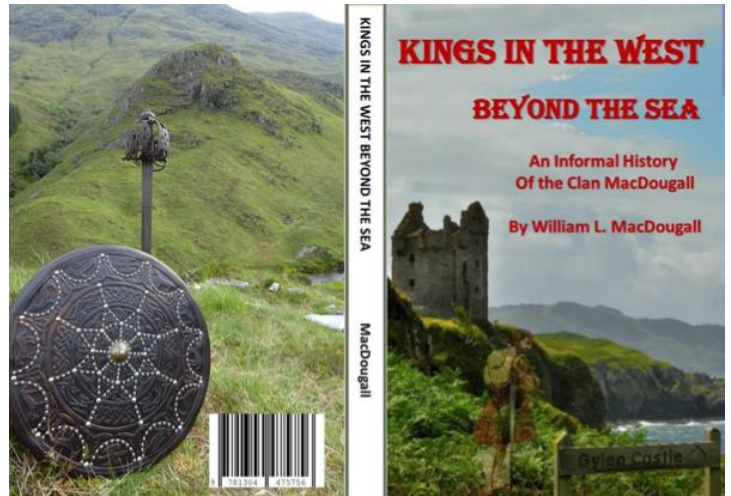
This expanded Second Edition focuses mainly on the MacDougalls of Argyll and their longtime ally, the MacDowalls of Galloway. This book will be of special interest to readers interested in stories of members of these two clans who emigrated in recent centuries from Scotland to Europe or North and South America or Australia.

In the photo, Society member Robin Burnham, great-nephew of the book's original author, is shown with our President Misha Lowther at the 2024 MacDougall Gathering in Oban. Robin



has donated the publication rights and all profits from sales of this Second Edition *Kings In The West Beyond The Sea* to the Society to support the preservation and restoration of Clan MacDougall and Clan MacDowall heritage sites in Scotland through its Dunollie Preservation Fund.

In September, *Kings In The West Beyond The Sea* will become available online and internationally through www.lulu.com in US., Australian, Canadian and United Kingdom currencies. The US. purchase price of the



**The new Second Edition covers by Gayle Crosby
with photos by Chris and Colin MacDougall**

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Kings in the West (cont)

print version is \$20.00 plus shipping, but www.lulu.com will make the book available online globally. You may also order it at your local bookstore, although you may need to provide its print copy ISBN 978-1-304-47575-6. Book retailers such as amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com may also sell it at various prices. Information about this and other books about our two clans is available in the Book Page of our Society web site at <https://macdougall.org/books2/>. An e-book version will also be available at Lulu.com.

A Tale of Two Squirrels

By Gayle Crosby MacDowell

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The “magically embellished” Scottish tale I’m about to tell has its roots not only in the history of the past, but in the challenges of the present day. The near annihilation of the Red Squirrel, so valuable to the balance of Scotland’s ecosystem, was inadvertently caused by one man; Herbrand Russell, the 11th Duke of Bedford. In 1880, the aristocrat was on holiday in America – New Jersey to be specific. Riding in his horsedrawn carriage through the forest, the duke was struck by the sight of an army of American squirrels. The squirrels in England and Scotland were red, small and solitary creatures. These squirrels however were grey, large and ran in groups.

Being captivated by the unique and rare, Russell determined to collect this new species of squirrel and introduced them into his huge, forested estate. The duke, unaware the American Grey Squirrel was a rapid breeder whose sheer population would decimate the Red Squirrels, shipped cages full of Grey Squirrels to the UK and gave them away in pairs to neighboring estates. Over time, the American Greys permeated the land to such an extent that the very existence of the Red Squirrel seemed in peril. Here is where our magical tale begins:

Galloway Forest, Scotland, 1920



MacDowell

A Tale of Two Squirrels (cont)



The Red Squirrels and The Grey Squirrels had been locked in a bloody battle for nearly three years now. For Ran-The-Red, the Chief of the scurrey (group) of Scottish Red Squirrels, it seemed every dawn brought a new struggle... another “do or die” moment. Ran brushed away the white tuft of fur from the tip of his ear that blew in the wind and worried his face. Even the thickness of his rich red coat could not still his sword arm, quivering from the cold as he willed his bushy tail to curl round his paw for warmth and support.

The native Red Squirrels of Scotland who had settled and served the forest before the dawn of men were facing, for the first time, an invasion of giant Grey Squirrels – from where they came, Ran-The-Red could not say. The invaders cared nothing for Scotland’s unique Red Squirrel, her bonny birds and their fragile eggs, nor, for that matter, the sweet young chicks and insects of every kind. The youngling trees, both coniferous and broadleaved, were seen by the Grey Squirrels as soft easy desserts to tear into with their teeth and feed their bellies, leaving the Reds to go hungry.

Ran lifted his eyes above the rocky Craig to the empty hill that stood above his forest home, watching for a horde of armed Grey Squirrels to suddenly appear, race down the hill, and continue their attacks. An unwanted tear fell from Ran’s eye as he wondered and grieved at the frightening situation they faced. Never before had the scurrey doubted Mother Nature’s love and care. But now, there was uncertainty, fear and urgency to know: Had She lifted Her protection?

The answer came with a flutter of wings as the forest filled with fairies, Mother Nature’s Daughters. The Queen of the Fairies stood before Ran, a magic mirror in her hand. “Your answer lies here. Look closely now,” she urged.

The mirror showed Old Bagmore, a weaselly looking Pine Marten. Ran scrunched up his face in disapproval.

“So you dislike the Pine Marten” observed the Fairie Queen.

“Indeed, I do!” responded Ran. “They are fighters; tough, mean and will take on any animal that stands in their way. They steal eggs, strip the bark off the trees, eat voles, rabbits and birds...then pilfer their nests.”



A Tale of Two Squirrels (cont)



Ran pointed angrily at the image in the mirror. "Old Bagmore's son stole the Osprey's eggs. That was the final straw! My grandfather, Rale-The-Red, Chief of the scurry in those days, and his Red Squirrel warriors fought tooth and nail for years to expel every Pine Marten from our forest.

"The wee chief is right," came an elderly voice from behind a tree.

Ran-The-Red gasped as Old Bagmore himself stood humbly before him. He wore the same old tam, smoked the same old pipe, but now his age required a cane.

"Chief Ran-The-Red," addressed the Pine Martin with a bow, "I have no quarrel with you. Indeed,

my son stole the Osprey's eggs and all the things you say about our species are true. But there is something you don't know, something your grandfather would not hear, something Mother Nature called us to do"...

Suddenly the image in the mirror changed to the year 1880. From inside a black horsedrawn carriage rolling through the New Jersey forest came the cry, "Halt"! Herbrand Russell, the 11th Duke of Bedford, on holiday in America, had seen something quite extraordinary.

Sitting on a branch was a Grey Squirrel, an American according to his uniform. "How amazing," the duke commented aloud. "The chap is much bigger and stronger than our own little Reds. I must have these squirrels for my collection." Then the image changed to show Herbrand Russell directing cages of American Grey Squirrels being loaded onto a ship bound for England. Then Ran-The-Red watched in horror as the duke released his imported Grey Squirrels onto his estate and gifted pairs to other landowners and friends.

With no one to stop them now, the vigorous Greys multiplied rapidly, overrunning the native species in the forests of England, before moving north into Galloway, Scotland.

"So you see, dear Red," explained the Fairie Queen, the Greys have your scurry out-matched and out-numbered." Ran's followers gasped and many wanted to run.

"Stop," she ordered. "If you run you will surely die!"

"Then what can we do?" Ran cried out.



MacDougall

A Tale of Two Squirrels (cont)

"Nothing," she replied, "Mother Nature meant for your Pine Marten neighbors to save your forest, but you have sent them away. You understood their ferocious nature, but its purpose is to defend the forest. They are unstoppable in such a time as this."

Suddenly the Greys appeared in mass, staring down at the meadow filled with Reds.

"Look!" shouted the Reds' captain of the guard. "They're on the ridge, the American Greys have come to invade our forest!"

The chirping cry of "CHARGE" came from the Grey avalanche pouring down the hill.

The old warrior, Old Bagmore, responded as the wind caught and carried his own solitary war-cry throughout the Galloway Forest. To the utter amazement of the Reds, hundreds of formerly cast out Pine Martens streamed into the clearing to form a defensive line in front of them. Though greatly outnumbered, this was what their ancestors had promised Mother Nature they'd do, defend her balance even at the cost of their own lives. Many died in the fierce combat but the ferocity of the Pine Martens stopped the advance of the Greys and forced them to retreat. The whole of the Galloway Forest cheered!

"Where is Old Bagmore," Ran asked? "He is here," shouted one of the Red Squirrels. The animals separated, clearing a pathway for Ran who dropped his sword and scurried to find the true hero of the day. Suddenly he stopped and rose up on his hind legs. There was the cane Old Bagmore had used, broken in two. There was the pipe he had smoked for years – laying on the ground. And there was his shredded tam.

Old Bagmore lay still on the ground – a peaceful smile told the truth. He had fulfilled his purpose. That was enough for Old Bagmore, He and the Pine Martens had done what

Mother Nature asked. For now the Galloway Forest was safe. ... **The End of the Fairie Tale**

The Sequel in Our World

Our tale of saving the Reds does not end here. In fact, the modern sequel begins with a prince, as many magical tales do. In our case the prince is Charles, now King Charles III of Great Britain. The plight of the Red Squirrels has acquired a champion: the astute and ecologically minded Prince Charles who understood that without intervention, the red squirrels would be extinct in the UK within 10 years!

In an interview with Country Life magazine in 2018. His son, Prince William, said of his father: "He is completely infatuated by the red squirrels that live around the estate in Scotland—to the extent that he's given them names and is allowing them into the house ..." His father, the



A Tale of Two Squirrels (cont)

patron of the Red Squirrel Survival Trust, doesn't deny it. He said in the same article.

"They come into the house at Birkhall and we get them chasing each other round and round inside. If I sit quietly, they will do so around me. ... Sometimes, when I leave my jackets on a chair with nuts in the pockets, I see them with their tails sticking out, as they hunt for nuts—they are incredibly special creatures." ...

“... these charming and intelligent creatures never fail to delight. I take enormous pleasure in having them around – and in! – the house when I am at home in Scotland.”

On Red Squirrel Appreciation Day in 2021 he concluded his message to volunteers saving the Red Squirrel by saying:

“I am so very grateful to all of you, as volunteers, for the crucial role you play in this ongoing battle to protect and restore a precious part of our natural heritage. This brings you all my warmest good wishes, together with every possible encouragement for the task ahead.”

A Final Word About the Pine Marten

While the contribution of the Pine Marten in our Fairie Tale is attributed to an appeal from Mother Nature to champion the Red Squirrel... and honor their ancient promise to defend the forest, it bears pointing out that Jason Gilchrist, Edinburgh Napier University provides us with a recent “thought-provoking” fact. On March 7, 2017, Jason authored an article called In Defense of The Grey Squirrel, where he noted:

... the pine marten, “these ferret-like predators were recently spotted in England for the first time in more than a century. Their resurgence could swing the balance in favor of the reds over the greys. In areas of Ireland where pine martens are thriving, grey squirrels have almost disappeared, allowing the reds to reestablish themselves.”

These recent glimmers of recovery of the red squirrel after in retreat being more for than a century do indeed seem magical. – The Tartan editor



MacDowall

A Tale of Two Squirrels (cont)

Cast of Characters



Red Squirrel



Grey Squirrel



Pine Marten

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Our Thanks

Many thanks to the Red Squirrel Survival Trust for the photo of King Charles III and the charming Red. We encourage all our Tartan readers to visit their website: rsst.org.uk

Please consider how you can contribute to their valuable efforts. Prince Charles' photo and message used with permission. The full article published on January 21, 2021, is at: <https://www.townandcountrymag.com/society/tradition/a35280072/prince-charles-red-squirrels-message/>

Sources and Credits

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