



December 2014

Welcome to our monthly report to you of happenings in our Society. We are always looking for information about YOU, so if you have a birth or wedding or special event, please send us a photo and information to BillLeroy@aol.com or president@macdougall.org. For more information, check our website at www.MacDougall.org.

Season's Greetings!



We hope you have a joyful holiday season, with a blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

As 2014 nears an end, we express our gratitude to all active members for their commitment to their heritage and to the work of Clan MacDougall Society.

The coming year promises to be one filled with remembrances and celebration for the Society as our members recognize its 50th Anniversary. Watch for information about this throughout the year and for ways that you can join in the activities.

Merry Christmas!

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Chaplain's Corner -- A Christmas message

Scotland has a custom of lighting a candle at Christmastime to light the way of a stranger, called the Oidche Choinnle, or Night of Candles. Candles were placed in every window to light the way for the Holy Family on Christmas Eve and First Footers on New Year's Eve. Shopkeepers gave their customers Yule Candles as a symbol of goodwill, wishing them a "Fire to warm you, and a light to guide you."



Many religions emphasize the discipline of hospitality. Reasons vary, even within the same culture - from simple benevolence to hoping for an angel in disguise. "Lighting the way for the Holy Family" references Mary and Joseph's efforts to find lodging for the birth of their son, Jesus. With no room for them at the local inn, Mary was forced to give birth to Jesus in a manger. The Scots who started this tradition likely imagined themselves offering better lodging, had the event taken place within their local contexts. The candles in the window, then, might have been a beacon of welcome to the weary couple and an invitation to warmth and respite for local travelers, as well as a visible sign of their spiritual practice of hospitality.

Not only is this relevant for the holiday season, but for our mission and purpose as a Society. Hospitality is defined as treating others with warmth and generosity. As we approach "the season of giving" and a new year, perhaps you can think of new ways to work a discipline of hospitality into your life.

New Members

Sandy Archer

Norfolk VA

Myck Cole

Vista CA

Roy Creed

Murrieta CA

Tina Davis

Crozet VA

Melissa Erikson

Stafford VA

John Gambill

Broken Arrow OK

Grant Gill

Corona CA

Edmond Lester

Chicago IL

Gordon MacDougall

Goose Creek SC

Jeanne' Pavlick

St. George SC

Robert Pavlich

St. George SC

Phillip Pollard

San Jose CA

—Rev. Fr. Matt MacDougall

[Fr. Matt has asked previously that members "feel free to email me at RevMattMac@gmail.com with prayer needs, religious questions, book suggestions, or any other thought, question or concern you might have - religious or not!"]

MacDougall Tents at Highland Games

We have concluded the 2014 Highland Games season. Watch for early listings of next year's games. This schedule comes from the games listed on our web site. If you are hosting a games tent, please make sure that our web master is aware of it, so that all our members know about and visit your tent.

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Of course, not all gatherings are Highland Games. Massed pipe bands, brave MacDougalls and hundreds of other Scots paraded through damp and chilly Old Town Alexandria, Virginia recently in an annual tradition ushering in the holiday season. Also participating were Scottish dancers, re-enactment groups, Scottie dog groups, dignitaries and, of course, Santa and Mrs. Claus. Clan MacDougall members always convene after the parade for food, fellowship and a Mid-Atlantic regional meeting. The parade is a favorite of the local community and a significant regional event and fund raiser for needy children. In 1749, the city of Alexandria was officially established by three Scottish merchants and named after its original founder John Alexander, also of Scottish descent. Today, the historic city continues celebrating its heritage with a weekend of festivities including a tour of historic homes, a children's tea party, a Celtic Concert and a Christmas Marketplace and Café.

Members responding to calls for support

Thank you to all who have returned their **2015 dues payments** in a timely fashion. This helps us get a sense of what good works we can continue over the next year, and at what level. Please return your statement as soon as possible.

We're also extremely grateful to those who have thus far contributed or made a pledge to the Society's **Dunollie Castle Conservation Campaign**. This is the first time the Society has undertaken such an effort, and the early response has been excellent.

Two months into the nine-month campaign, we are 60% of the way toward our \$25,000 goal. So far, 74 generous members have contributed. We expect many more to participate now that the campaign is on our website and Facebook. Any donation within your means is greatly appreciated.



You may print out the [Donation Form](#) -- or access www.macdougall.org to get more details and contribute online, including via PayPal.

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER!

We're always looking for information about YOU to share with your fellow members, so if you have a birth or wedding or special event, please send us a photo and information to BillLeroy@aol.com.

Carol Richards
Manguin VA
Frank Robert
Emeryville CA
Danielle Saldana
Goose Creek SC
Zachery Trammell
Sacramento CA
Vicki Ward
Dublin GA

Join Our Mailing List

Contact Us

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Tree of Remembrance

[This report is from Beacham McDougald, long-term member of our Society, a member of the Board of Directors and chair of our Youth Committee.]

Since either 1986 or 1987 we've donated a 12-foot Christmas tree to Hospice of Scotland County to use as their "Tree of



Remembrance." This year the Harris-Teeter Super Market told Hospice that they could no longer accommodate a large tree due to its diameter. They said 5-6 feet tall would be the maximum height allowed.

Two of the Hospice ladies and I got together to discuss if it was even worthwhile to continue the tradition. I suggested that we could continue by placing the "Tree of Remembrance" on a 3-ft. diameter table with a table cloth draping down the sides where additional memorial ornaments could be

Scholarship Winner

John A. McDougall Memorial Scholarship

Connor Civatte

Connor Civatte of Trenton, NC has been playing the fiddle for about eight years. He reports that he began with traditional Suzuki but did not find it to his liking. Then his brother brought home a Celtic fiddling DVD and it changed his life. He started competing about four years ago and goes to any competitions that are in driving range from his home.

He was invited onstage to play with a band at the WNC (Western North Carolina) Celtic Heritage Festival a couple of years ago and has been playing with other bands since.

Now fourteen, his goal is to give free fiddling lessons to underprivileged youth who may be interested, and play for assisted living centers.

He requested the scholarship to go to fiddling camp to improve his techniques and to enhance his knowledge of his Scottish heritage.

A real treat is to visit his YouTube channel called the kidfiddler11 (all one word, lower case) and watch him perform. The most recent post is of his performance at the 2014 Fiddling Nationals.

Our Scholarship Program supports one of the key purposes of our Society. Donations to our Scholarship Fund help defray the costs, are accepted year-round and are greatly appreciated by the Society and recipients. The Society is a 501(c)(3) organization and contributions to its endeavors may be tax deductible in the U.S.

placed, and even offered to donate tartan material for the table cloths to keep the Scotland County theme.

A local seamstress, Betty Medlock, made the table cloth and pleated it like a kilt.

The identity of the tartan is...?

Famous MacDougalls

Rear Admiral Ralph M. Ghormley, USN

[Admiral Ghormley was a member of our Society, and many of his relatives remain active members.]

Rear Admiral Ralph M. Ghormley, USN, was born in Boston, Massachusetts, reared in Rochester, Minnesota, and commissioned as an Ensign, U.S. Navy, upon graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy in June 1949.

After service on USS ORLECK, he attended Submarine School. From 1951 to 1955 he served in the submarines SEA FOX and HARDHEAD. In 1957 after completing post graduate education in command communications, he served on the Staff of Commander Submarine Squadron Five and in the submarines RATON and SEA FOX. After completing Nuclear Power Training in 1961, he reported to the BARB as Executive Officer. In 1963 he assumed command of the nuclear attack submarine SCORPION. In August 1965 he assumed command of the Polaris submarine SAM RAYBURN, after which he commanded Submarine Division Fifty-Three.



In 1971, he was assigned as Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics Management on the staff of Commander, Submarine Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet. In June 1973, he was designated as Rear Admiral while providing Naval Control of Shipping support for the Commander, U.S. Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. In 1975, he was assigned as the Deputy Commander, Planning, Programming and Resources Management Directorate of the Naval Electronic Systems Command in Washington, D.C. In 1976, he was assigned as Deputy Director, Operations for

the Defense Communications Agency, Washington, D.C. Following this tour, he briefly served as an Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, before assignment as the Commander, Naval Telecommunications Command, Washington, D.C.

RADM Ghormley's awards include the Legion of Merit with Gold Star (in lieu of second award), the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal with one Gold Star (in lieu of the second award), the Navy Expeditionary Medal, the China Service Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the Navy Occupation Service Medal with "ASIA" Clasp, the National Defense Medal with one Bronze Star (in lieu of second award), the Korean Service Medal, and the United Nations Service Medal.

Famous Scots

