



May 2016

Welcome to our monthly report of events and activities of our Society. We are always looking for information to share with our members, so if you have a birth or wedding or know of a special event, please send a photo along with relevant information to president@macdougall.org.

Ashby's Reflections

Mo dheagh chairdean
My Good Friends

Tha an dama ire de dhaingneachadh Dhùn Ollaigh air a coinleanadh agus an tùr air ath-fhosladh. Sheas e mar cruitheachd mhòr liath a' coimhead thairis air Camus an Òban agus an Linne Lathurnach. // The tower of Dundlie Castle has reopened as the phase II consolidation work is completed. The tower now stands as a large gray presence overlooking Oban Bay and the Lynn of Lorn.

Toward the end of May several of us traveled to Victoria BC to attend the Victoria Highland Games and to meet with Fergus Macdowall of Garthland, Chief of Clan MacDowall. I believe that this was an enriching and educational experience for all that were able to make the trip.

Although the Dundlie tower opening and the Victoria Gathering were significant and happy events this month, I had considered opening my remarks with a couple of lines from Shakespeare's Twelfth Night:

With hey, ho, the wind and the rain
For the rain it raineth every day

We had three important East Coast games washed out this month and last. The events of the Dunedin games were recounted in last month's newsletter. We are able to include some pictures of the Dunedin Games in this month's news letter along with short accounts of events at the Mid-Maryland and Fair Hill Games in Maryland. But we lived to fight another day. We truly appreciate the contribution that our hosts and helpers make to promoting the goals of the Society in all conditions.

We hope that you will be able to join us for some or all of our activities at the Grandfather Mountain Games this July. We have, at times, shared our memories of past Society activities at the Founders Dinner on Friday evening. This year we are asking attendees to share, if they wish, brief family histories -- either their own or those of other families they might find interesting. We look forward to seeing and talking with you.

In this month's newsletter, Hugh MacDougall brings to our attention an exhibition in Aberfeldy, Perthshire, this summer focused on the Aberfeldy Pipe Band. The exhibition is being held in the library of the Breadalbane Community Campus in Aberfeldy. An earlier article in this newsletter,

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New Members

Richard Clave
Corona, CA

Maureen Coles
Victoria, BC

David Cornett
Culver City, CA

DePaul Dowell
Harned, KY

Joyce Downin
Columbia, MD

Mark Doyle
Laguna Niguel, CA

Richard Hall
Bakersfield, CA

Paul Jeune
Victoria, BC

excerpted from Nancy Black's *From a Hollow on the Hill*, described the MacDougall piping tradition, referencing the piping school at Kilbride. Hugh's note and the Aberfeldy exhibition points to the important piping tradition of the MacDougalls of Fortingall. Nancy Black's book gives an in-depth picture of the MacDougalls of Fortingall. Piping is a very significant part of the heritage of Clan MacDougall everywhere.

Tìoraidh an-drasta

Tòmas MacCòmhghan // Thomas Ashby McCown
Ceann-suidhe // President

Philip MacDougall
Eldorado Hills, CA

Joslynn McDougall
North Saadich, BC

Edward Seiler
Aurora, CO

Tents at Highland Games

Please notify our webmaster if you've signed up to host a tent at any games. We want as accurate a Games Calendar as possible. Games listed here are found on our website. We would be pleased to receive any report on a game, with photos of course.

June

25-26 San Diego Scottish Highland Games and Gathering
Vista, CA

July

1 - Embro Highland Games
Embro, ON

2- Kincardine Scottish Festival
Kincardine, ON

7-10 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games
Linville, NC

9 - Minnesota Scottish Fair & Highland Games
Eagan, MN

August

13- Fergus Scottish Festival
Fergus, ON

Phase II of Dunollie Castle Conservation is Complete



Dunollie Tower with and without scaffolding

The fencing is now removed from the front facing walls of the tower and the first room, the "undercroft", is now safe for visitors.

The castle looks splendid with the scaffolding removed, the ivy cut back, a new fence and new cairns with the up-dating interpretation boards.

A small informal opening ceremony was held Friday afternoon May 27 with Donald MacDougall piping, students from the High School cutting the ribbon, and tea and cake enjoyed on the terrace of the 1745 House. Dunollie expressed deep gratitude for its funders: Historic Environment Scotland, The Heritage Lottery Fund, Clan MacDougall Society of North America, and its onsite visitors. Donald MacDougall read a message of support from our Society:

Tha sinn fìor thoilichte Caisteal Dhùn Ollaigh fhaicinn le suillean ùra agus e ag èirigh bho'n mhad àrsaidh seo. Tha sinn buidheach do na h-uile a chuidich leis an daingneachadh seo.

We have seen a recent picture of this wonderful tower rising from its ancient promontory. It reminded us of the description Lewis MacKinnon penned of a Giant, though in his case a Giant symbolizing Nova Scotia Gaelic:

A nist le a cheann glic
Leth liadh mar na beanntannan-fhèin

Now with its wise head
Half grey from age
Like the mountains themselves

Lewis MacKinnon, crowned Gaelic Bard in 2011, had his Gaelic from his great uncle, Dougald McDougall.

The tower and walls of Dunollie are a symbol of the lives and

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activities in and about this castle, in Lorn, and in the nearby islands, that over millennia created our heritage. For this reason we feel that the life the community is breathing into this consolidation work through the Telling the Castle Story program is very important. We are grateful for the efforts of those who have been involved in this program as we are for the extraordinarily skilled workmanship that effected this beautiful consolidation.

We wish to express our appreciation to the Dundlie staff, management, and volunteers whose skilled efforts have brought the consolidation work to this important stage. We are profoundly grateful for the leadership of our Chief, Madam Morag MacDougall of MacDougall, whose persistent attention and support have been critical to the project.

Dundlie has posted videos of [Donald's piping](#) in the Castle courtyard and the [Opening Ceremony](#).

Grandfather Mountain Gathering 2016



This is a reminder that our annual meetings, our Founders Dinner, and Beacham's North Carolina BBQ will take place in the vicinity of the Grandfather Mountain Games in Linville, North Carolina, July 7 through 10.

The Founders Dinner will be on Friday evening, July 8, at 7:00 in the main Eseeola Lodge. This is a formal, or modestly semi-formal (i.e., look Scottish), dinner featuring a three-course dinner plus a taste of haggis at a cost of \$42.00 per adult and \$12.50 per child. If you would like to attend the Founders Dinner please complete and return this [Reservation Form](#) as soon as possible. This will assist our planning.

Photos of our Forces at the Dunedin Highland Games

As reported in last month's newsletter



Clan Row

Internet

Web site :

www.macdougall.org

Facebook Page

Clan MacDougall Society of North America
<https://www.facebook.com/clanmacdougall/?fref=ts>

Twitter

twitter.com/Clan_MacDougall

Membership Year

Membership Dues are on a calendar year basis ending on 31 December. Dues may be paid, or prepaid, online for one or more calendar years through Paypal at:
<http://macdougall.org/membership-information/>

Submissions

Persons wishing to submit articles, or photos, of interest to our newsletters may contact:

The Editor of The Tartan at
editor@macdougall.org

or

The Editor of the Monthly
Newsletter

at:

president@macdougall.org

Your Contact Information

Please send your email, telephone, or postal address changes to:
records@macdougall.org



Mimi Leroy-Marler and Beverly Mundt in the Bunker



Mimi and Brad Mundt in the Bunker

The Mid-Maryland Celtic Festival

The Mid-Maryland Games enjoyed nice weather - well until around 2:00 in the afternoon. Dennis McDowell, our Maryland State Representative, and his wife, Donna, met old friends, relished brisk conversation, and found a new member. Then the storm came. One of the very strong gusts of winds in the storm picked up the tent with its flags and banners and blew it across the way, wrecking aluminum tent supports in several places. This may be the third tent lost at Mid-Maryland Games. Our hosts managed but one picture in the chaos, only to find a finger had found itself in front of the lens.

Colonial (Fair Hill) Highland Gathering

The Fair Hill Games have been traditionally a delightful, productive experience. Malcolm arrived at the usual wee hours, rushing to set up before bad weather arrived. On the other hand, several other clans, as well as a large part of the usual attendees, read their weather reports and did not show at all. There was no deluge, but the Scotch mist (Malcolm wonders why it's not properly referred to as Scottish mist) soon turned to downpour. The meager attendance slipped away. Our new Mid-Atlantic Commissioners, Cathy and Bill McHoul, braved the weather to drop by, then help pack up soggy fabrics and handouts. We do not have photos.

Victoria Highland Games 2016



A number of members of our Society gathered at the 153rd Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival, May 20-23, to honor the Chief of Clan MacDowall, Fergus Macdowall of Garthland. We were not alone, as he had already been named Chief of the Victoria Highland Games for 2016.



The Chief is honored.

conversation long into the night. Scott presented the first copies of our newly created DVD *The Clan and Kindred of MacDowall* to our Chief and his grandson Garnett.



The Chief's prestige and the legerdemain of his grandson and our BC Regional Commissioner, Garnett Macdowall, got us into the VIP reception on Friday evening where our Chief was formally honored as Chief of the Games. On Saturday the Chief addressed the Games opening in his MacDowall tartan and on Sunday reviewed the Clan tents at the Games in his MacDougall tartan, recalling the ancient links of the two distinct Clans represented in our Society. On Saturday the Chief gathered us at a splendid restaurant on the water for dinner and



The Chief's Opening Address

This was a perfect Society Gathering. The days were cool and not too damp, the piping was superb, the dancing excellent, music exciting, the athletes skilled, and Gaelic well represented. We discussed family, history, and traditions among ourselves. We met many people at our tents who had their own stories to tell, raised sharp perceptive questions, and were genuinely interested in our heritage. Five families from the U.S. and Canada, both MacDowalls and MacDougalls, joined the Society at our tents.



The Chief, his grandson and great-grandson





Aberfeldy Pipe Exhibition

Hugh MacDougall of York Reports

There is a special exhibition being held this summer in Aberfeldy, Perthshire, featuring the history of the Aberfeldy Pipe Band. This is famously a MacDougall-founded and strongly MacDougall-linked band. At one time every member of the band was a MacDougall. I think a visit to Aberfeldy to see the exhibition will be well worth the effort for any MacDougall Society members from North America who are in Scotland at this time. The exhibition is being held in the library of the Breadalbane Community Campus at Aberfeldy. The library is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays all day, and on Saturday mornings. Entry is free.

This area is of some interest to those interested in piping. A renowned family of MacDougalls were bagpipe makers in Aberfeldy. their pipes being of the highest quality and with a great reputation. Anyone who has a set of MacDougall pipes has a treasure. More than one of the King's or Queen's pipers have owned and played MacDougall pipes for the monarch every day. The Queen's piper - she has had eleven different pipers in her reign -- plays every morning for Her Majesty wherever she happens to be resident.

MacDougall of Aberfeldy pipes are no longer made, the family business having disappeared some time ago. At the opening of the exhibition Aberfeldy piper Duncan McDairmid gave a speech about the band and the MacDougalls. A digital version of a recording made by Aberfeldy Pipe Band a few years after the Second World War is in the College of Piping Museum in Glasgow. It is quite possible there will have been a MacDougall or two from the bagpiping family in that band.

John A. McDougall Memorial Scholarships

The Scholarship Committee has begun to announce awards. Details will be provided in future newsletters. Again, we appreciate hearing from applicants. Their efforts in preserving and promoting our heritage inspire the members of the Society.

Our Scholarship Program supports one of the key purposes of our Society. Access our website for the procedures for applying for a scholarship. 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.