



Clan MacDougall Society of North America

MONTHLY NEWS



November/December 2015

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

Tha sinn an dòchas gun robh Nollaig ghè mhath, 's gu bheil làithean-fèill fìor àghmhor, 's gum bithidh bliadhna ri tighinn piseachail agaibh-se. We hope you have had, are having, and will have a good Christmas, a joyful holiday season, and a rewarding year to come.

We ask each month for items to share with our members - items of information like births, weddings, members passing, or special events. We are passing some of the information we have recently received, through various sources, onto you in two sections of this edition: Family Matters, and Flowers of the Forest. Please, continue to keep us informed.

November 13, 2015 was the three hundredth anniversary of the Battle of Sheriffmuir. Although this battle is seldom given the attention of the great battles in Scottish history, it is very important, indeed perhaps a watershed, in the history of the MacDougalls of Lorn. The MacDowalls of Garthland are also involved, though not on the battlefield, with the MacDougalls during this period. A brief description of the battle is included in this issue, drawn from an eminent Scottish historian and from the words of Ian Ciar, the 22nd Chief of Clan MacDougall, who participated in the battle.

The November-December period spanned by this newsletter covers a number of important events in Gaelic culture. It begins with Samhain, the old Celtic New Year's day, and ends with Oidhche Challaig, or Hogmany, which we now celebrate as New Year's eve. There are extremely old celebrations associated with these days that express beliefs and practices from diverse sources. The blessing given below, collected by Alexander Carmichael (from Lismore), at the end of the 19th century and published with his translation in the first volume of *Carmina Gadelica*, was said to have been asked "the first thing on the first day of a new year".

Beannachadh Bliadha Uir // The Blessing of the New Year

THE, beannaich dhomh an la ur,
Nach do thuradh dhomh roimhe riamh ;
Is ann gu beannachadh do ghnuis,

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New Members

Johnny MacDougall
Greer, SC

Sonya Hooten
Kerville, TX

Jimmie Lee Norwood
Marion, TX

Andrew MacDougall
Norfolk, VA

Janet Dorr
Greeley, CO

Aubrey Harris
New Orleans, LA

James W. Fernandez
Estes Park, CO

Chuck Lucas
Georgetown, TX

Thug thu 'n uine seo dhomh, a Dhia.

// GOD, bless to me the new day,
Never vouchsafed to me before;
It is to bless Thine own presence
Thou hast given me this time, O God.

Beannaich thusa dhomh mo shuil,
Beannaicheadh mo shuil na chi;
Beannaichidh mise mo nabaidh,
Beannaicheadh mo nabaidh mi.

//Bless Thou to me mine eye,
May mine eye bless all it sees;
I will bless my neighbor,
May my neighbor bless me.

Dhe tabhair dhomh-sa cridhe glan,
Na leig a seall do shula mi;
Beannaich dhomh mo ghin 's mo bhean,
'S beannaich domh mo nearc 's mo ni.

//God, give me a clean heart,
Let me not from sight of Thine eye ;
Bless to me my children and my wife,
And bless to me my means and my cattle.

Leis gach deagh dhùrachd

Ashby

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

Patrick H. McDougall
Roswell, GA

Robert MacDowall Hills Grove
Melbourne, FL

John McDougall
Rockwood, ON

Kathryn Eden McDougal Krause
Agawam, MA

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.

January

16-17 The Central Florida Scottish Highland Games
Winter Springs, FL

February

13-14 The Queen Mary Scots Festival
Long Beach, CA

A Note from the Treasurer

Do not forget to return the dues notice you received this fall and the dues payment to keep your membership current. Without those funds we would not have a Scholarship program nor would we be able to support regional and many other activities through the year.

We also rely on the information provided on returned dues or donation forms to update contact information in our records.

Thank you,
Don MacDougall
Treasurer

The Alexandria Virginia Scottish Christmas Walk and Clan MacDougall Mid-Atlantic Gathering.

The Walk is held the first Saturday in December each year. There are somewhere between a hundred and a hundred and fifty units, representing many Scottish Clans, other Scottish groups,

Contact Us

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Twitter

twitter.com/Clan_MacDougall

Membership Year

Membership Dues are on a calendar year



MacDougall/MacDowall Families



We can get excited



The Gathering

re-enactors, political figures, floats, etc. This year the weather was crisp and pleasant, reaching the 50s and dry. The crowd were large and active. A recent addition to our group, Suzanne McDowell, worked the crowd dressed as a nineteenth century maid stirring the children to sing "We wish you a merry Christmas", while Malcolm MacDougall waving the MacDougall tartan backed her up. MacDougalls observing the parade repeatedly dashed into the street to have their picture taken with tartan or banner.

We repaired, as tradition, to the party room of Suzanne McDougal's condo for our annual gathering - lunch, light business, and much discussion of Clan matters, here and abroad, and Scottish heritage. This is living large..



The Gathering

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

Family Matters

Buzzy Bramble Isle of Palms, SC

One of our long time members, Buzzy Bramble, has fallen upon very difficult times caused by medical issues. If you wish to know more, or feel you might be able to be of some assistance, contact Ed McDougall at edmcDougall@gmail.com.

Beacham McDougald
Laurinburg, NC



Beacham was given the Laurinburg Police Department's Outstanding Citizen award at the Department's Christmas Party last December 15. He was presented the award by Officer James Munger, who had just been named the Department's top shooter. Officer Munger said, in his presentation, "Mr. Beacham and Mrs. Lynn have not only been good to Scotland County, they've been good to me and a lot of other police officers" said Munger. "I am so truly humbled and so truly glad to

call him a friend."

Wayne G. MacDowell
St Petersburg Beach, FL

Wayne retired from the business world, working 20 years with Lipton Tea and 21 as Director of Marketing & Sales for Chock Full 'O Nuts Coffee Company. He now spends his time doing volunteer work - and writing. He is a life member of the Society, as are his daughters, Karen L. MacDowell and Susan D. Romanchek. He has a keen interest in Dundellie and in MacDowall/MacDowell history.

Wayne spent nine years researching and writing his second novel, *Not Just Another War Story*, which was published at the first of 2015. The story, while considered historical fiction, is based on factual accounts of World War II and the adventures of a B-17 Flying Fortress crew. Every location mentioned in the book is real, each B-17 mentioned is factually described down to the serial number, and each bombing mission described is an authentic 305th Bomb Group raid. The book is not, however, a recitation of events, but rather weaves into these events the thoughts and emotions of young people during extremely difficult times. The main character is a Carmichael, an important associated family of Clan MacDougall. Indeed, both the Clan and Dundellie Castle are mentioned in the book.

Not Just Another War Story received the Florida Authors and Publishers Association's President's Gold Metal at their annual convention. 73% of Amazon's reviewers gave it five stars, the highest rating, and the rest gave it four.

Flowers of the Forest

Hamish MacDowall Copland, OBE

Hamish MacDowall Copland, of Clearwater, Florida, died of a fall on April 10, 2010. He was born in Gourrock, Scotland in 1918, attended University of Glasgow, migrated to Venezuela where he formed his own accounting firm in 1952, and became associated as a senior resident partner for Venezuela for Ernst & Ernst (now Ernst and Young, etc.) Was active in community affairs, honored in 1978 by H.M. Queen Elizabeth II, being designated an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.) for services to the British community in Venezuela and in the promotion of trade between the United Kingdom and Venezuela.

He was also awarded the Order Al Merito En El Trabajo by the President of Venezuela in 1981.

After the death in 1991 of Joan Margaret Orr, his wife of 49 years, he joined his sons in Florida. He joined the Clan MacDougall Society in 1994. He very much enjoyed his association with the Society helping at the Clan tent each year when he lived in Dunedin. In 1997, he married Margaret Stirling Beavers, who survives him. His other activities included membership in the Scottish-American Society of Dunedin, St. Alfred's Episcopal Church, and the Society of The Men of St. Alfred's.

.Mr. and Mrs. Barry Halleck MacDougall

Patricia Lucille Blake MacDougall of West Leyden, New York, predeceased her husband on March 15, 2013. Barry, 91,



joined her on November 19, 2015. They were married for 64 years, had 2 sons, 7 daughters, 13 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren.

Barry was a Veteran of World War II, serving in the US Army 339th Field Artillery Battalion, 88th Division also known as the "Fighting Blue Devils". He was a Member of the American Legion and a Charter Member of the National World War II Museum. They were longtime, proud members of the Clan MacDougall Society, which they joined in 1969. They enjoyed two separate

50th Wedding Anniversary pilgrimages to Dundee.

Sally Trotter

Sally Trotter, 89, of Greenville MS passed away Monday April 6, 2015. She was preceded in death by her husband, William C. Trotter, Jr., in 2012. Sally and Bill were members of the Clan MacDougall Society for forty years. Sally was a genealogist, authoring several books of her family history. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, singing in the choir for over 50 years as well as directing the hand bell choir. She was also a member of the DAR, Colonial Dames of America, the Huguenot Society, and First Families of Mississippi. She is survived by two sons, five grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

The Battle of Sheriffmuir

The Battle of Sheriffmuir, the key battle of the 1715 Jacobite uprising seeking to restore the Stuart Dynasty, was fought three hundred years ago this last November 13. The failure of that uprising, and our part in it, may be thought of as ushering in the modern era of the MacDougalls of Lorn.

The eminent Scottish historian T.M. Devine writes (in *The Scottish Nation 1700-2000*) that although Jacobite support in Scotland had originally been based on loyalty to the traditional royal line or on religious issues, the 1707 treaty uniting the Parliaments of England and Scotland was a major stimulus to the 1715 uprising. The concept of union with England was extremely unpopular in Scotland, both before and after the treaty was agreed, with the union itself bringing substantial tax burdens on Scotland. In advance of both the 1715 and 1745 uprisings the Stuarts publicly committed themselves to repeal the union once they re-assumed power. Devine recounts that the words "No union" appeared on many Jacobite banners.

The battle of Sheriffmuir took place outside Dunblane. John, Earl of Mar, who led the Jacobite forces was, to be gentle, a rather poor commander. The Jacobite forces were much larger than those of the Hanoverians under the Duke of Argyll, although the latter had a core of professional soldiers. Although each army's right wing initially triumphed in the battle, the Jacobite left wing regrouped while the Hanoverian left wing was virtually annihilated. Mar did not pursue Argyll's forces and these were allowed to withdraw in something of an orderly fashion to Stirling, where they could still be a threat to forces moving South. But Mar seemed to use any pretext not to march south. As Murray Pittock observed:

Mar waited and waited: He waited for French help; he waited for the Duke of Berwick, he waited for the King, he waited for yet more recruits to make his position impregnable.

James VIII, the exiled Stuart king known as the "Old Pretender", arrived in Scotland on December 1715, visited Dundee and Perth and quickly left, abandoning the uprising.

Ian Ciar, the 22nd Chief of Clan MacDougall, tales of whose heroic deeds are still a vital part of the heritage of Lorn, was loyal to the Stuarts as his fathers had been and rose in the '15. Dundellie was surrounded by supporters of the Hanover dynasty, but Iain Ciar dissimulated his intentions and even tried to persuade the Campbells to supply him arms -- but they were not that slow. He and his companions, which some say numbered as high as 200, were able to elude the Campbells and join Mar's forces, although they reputedly drew fire from Dunstaffnage as they crossed Loch Etive below the Campbell stronghold.

His wife Mary, 19 years old and of the family of MacDonalds of Sleat, was left to defend Dundellie with 14 men, which she did throughout the uprising. Mary and her family were ardent Jacobites and her father and brother were with Iain Ciar in Mar's forces. Ian Ciar's letters to Mary, which can be found in *Highland Postbag* written by our Chief's mother, Jean MacDougall, describe his view of the battle.

Excerpts from these letters:

November 19, 2015

The matter of fact was this: on Sunday, being the thirteenth instant, we engaged the enemy; we had my Lord Argyle's left wing. We were placed on our own right wing with Glengarry, Clanranald, Sir

Donald Maclean's and a small battalion of my Lord Breadalbane's four troops of horse commanded by the Earl Marischal.

The enemy being unanimously attacked by us whom I named was utterly defeated, for of five regiments of foot and the Black horse there never entered Stirling of the five hundred men but the whole were killed or taken. For I can assure you such of them as engaged, I mean Sir Donald's men, there was never a score that left the field of them.

Our left wing was indeed put in a confusion and was a good way gessed [dispersed] by the enemy; and then our horse made extraordinary good resistance, kept their ground and artillery and camped that night where they had fought it and so we kept the field of battle. My Lord Argyle was obliged to betake himself to Stirling that night with the loss of eight or nine hundred killed and two hundred at least taken prisoners. Blessed be God our loss needs not be recorded, for Sir Donald there was not twenty of his whole men killed and not one gentleman in the whole of his nor twenty wounded - and I have the honour my dearest to be amongst the wounded, for I received a slight one through the right thigh and, praise be God, it may be so-called for my danger is already over.

His injury was not as slight as described here, although in the end it healed. The greater injury was done by the collapse of the rebellion, which forced Iain Ciar to flee Scotland. Until his pardon, he spent eleven years in exile - either abroad or in hiding in Scotland.

He writes on February 17, 1716

Comfort and only Dearest, The misfortune of our undertaking is grievous to be reported for we were most unhumanly betrayed by the Earle of Marr, Marquis of Huntly and the Earle of Seaforth by whose doings we were obliged to fly and disperse, many of our Nobility have left the Kingdom so that I durst not venture to go to my dearest. My design is to go with your father for a time. I doubt not but your life and living will be very uneasy to you as it has been long since, as for your house if they please you are to give it up. I am hopeful they will use you more kind than to extend their severity.

Iain Ciar was a fugitive, both in Scotland and abroad, until January of 1727. He in fact had a number of business ventures afoot in Scotland during this time and participated in another short lived uprising in 1719. Patrick McDowall (W.S.) was the family Lawyer in Edinburgh during this period. Colonel Macdowall of Garthland, who helped Iain Ciar with the education of his sons and offered financial advice during this difficult period and who offered financial advice, addressed him in letters as "dear Cusin". Jean MacDougall writes that contemporary accounts placed him in Gravesend awaiting transportation with Iain Stewart of Appin and Rob Roy, to Barbados when the



Old MacDougall Burial Vault
Kilbride

Royal Pardon was issued. (There is at least one other tradition of the delivery of the Royal pardon in the oral tradition of Lorn.) He died December 8, 1737 at Dunollie Castle, "within the stones of his ancestors" as Jean MacDougall wrote. He was the last Clan Chief to have so passed. His grave can be visited at Kilbride.

John A. McDougall Memorial Scholarships

MONTH/YEAR

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.