



The Raven

Monthly Newsletter of the
Clan MacDougall Society of North America



©2019, Edwina Aitkin

It's hard to believe a year has passed since we marched through Oban and onto the grounds of Dunollie! I didn't know then that it would be the last time I would see many of you for quite a while. Our summers are usually punctuated by numerous highland games, enlisting new members, and visiting with existing ones. The pandemic brought all that to a halt and by this time a certain amount of cabin fever has set in.

We remain hopeful that 2021 will see us return to some semblance of normality. In preparation, I've been cleaning and organizing my tent stuff and staff is busily creating new materials. My main concern at this point is I may not fit into my kilt when the time comes.

One way I've been fighting the quarantine expansion is by doing a lot of walking. Sure, I could go outside but I live in western Minnesota and if you've seen one corn field, you've seen them all. I much prefer strolling through the Highlands and I've found a way to do just that, virtually.

The YouTube channels linked below are among my favorite producers of quality hiking videos. I play these out to my smart tv and walk along with the video. Initially, I just walked in place while I watched but now I've been fortunate enough to find a reasonably-priced treadmill. That has made the experience even better.

The hikes are of good duration, with most running 30 minutes to over an hour. Plenty of time to get in a good work out. There are strolls through the cities and along coastlines or through the wild places. You can even explore interiors like museums and castles. Sometimes the producer will narrate points of interest along the way, but usually they just let you enjoy the ambient sound of the place. I've found this to be an enjoyable way to bring a little of Scotland into my day and I hope you will, too.

Click the images to go to each channel. I've doctored the links so Scottish locations appear first; however, the producers travel the world. Explore some beautiful places and burn a few calories at the same time!

Kyle Jones
President, CMSNA





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Join Us for the Annual General Meeting

Our 2020 Annual General Meeting will be an online affair, held via GoToMeeting.
Please join us for a brief update on all that is happening in the Society and our plans for the future.

**September 12, 2020
4:00pm (CDT)**

To take part, click the link below at meeting time.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/615812381>

If you prefer to listen in by telephone, use the appropriate number for your country.

United States: +1 (571) 317-3116

Canada: +1 (647) 497-9373

You will be prompted to enter an access code, which is:

615-812-381

Hebridean Australian Challenge

I just wanted to check in with everyone and say hello and give an update to what's been happening in my Scottish Highland Dance community.

With the USIR cancelled this year due to COVID... we've had a lot of different but fun activities to replace the emptiness in our hearts. Recently, I have competed in the Hebridean challenge online in Australia. It consisted of a Scottish Dance World Wide celebration broken up between 7 World Wide Regions. Points are given to each region based on each dancer's submission.

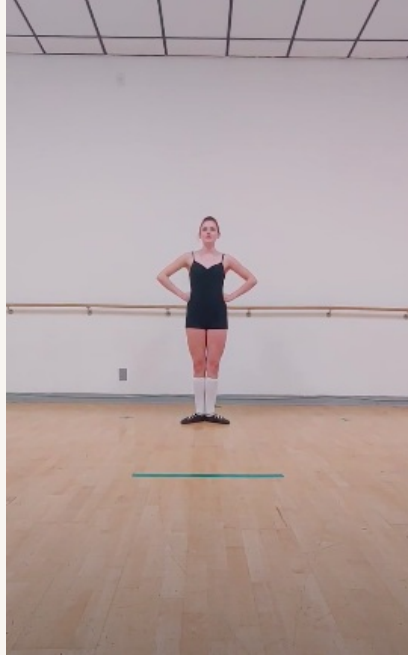
I am happy to report that I was 3 of 20 USA online submissions for this choreography challenge. The USA had chosen intricate steps for the Fling, Swords, Seann Triubhas, and Reel Choreography. They were most fun as well as challenging. I would like to share my submission videos with you via YouTube. I will post the links at the end... Please enjoy the 3 Choreography dances I was able to participate in with this challenge.

On another note... I am still awaiting my scheduled day and time with the Scottish Adjudicators regarding my members exam. However, I am assured that it will be officially scheduled within the next few weeks. I will look forward to sharing that experience with all of you as well as my exam results when they are processed.

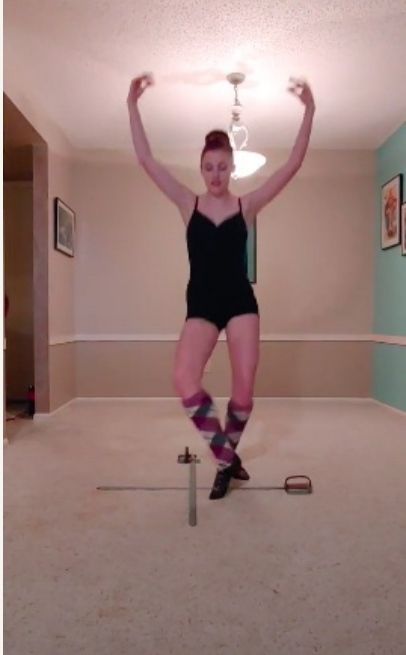
In the mean time I am blessed to say that my TBHD instructor Elizabeth Constantine continues to have in studio teaching opportunities for me, which I enjoy very very much. My little online dance students continue to improve every week as well.

I look forward to my next update with all of you. In the meantime please stay healthy and safe.

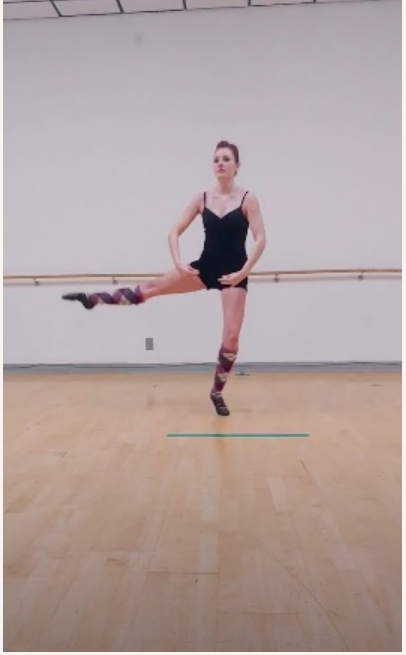
Audrey Trawick, Associate HD Instructor
Tampa Bay Highland Dancers, Clearwater, FL



Highland Fling



Sword Dance



Seann Triubhas

Editor's Note: Click images to see Audrey in action.

Origin of "The Banks O' Doon"

In 1791, the famous Scottish writer Robert Burns wrote a song titled "The Banks O' Doon," also occasionally called "Ye Banks and Braes." The lyrics are set to a tune titled "The Caledonian Hunt's Delight" and were inspired by an illicit affair between Lt. Col. Andrew McDouall and Ms. Margaret "Peggy" Kennedy.

Andrew McDouall (1758-1834) was the son of wealthy John McDouall, Laird of Logan, and Helen Buchan, and born in Kirkmaiden, Wigtownshire, Scotland (1). McDouall became a member of Parliament representing Logan, Wigtown, Wigtownshire, Scotland through strong family connections. While in service in 1786, he is said to have seduced a young girl from a good family, the "bonnie Peggy Kennedy." Kennedy, born in 1766, was the daughter of Robert Kennedy of Daljarroch and Gizel Cathcart.

McDouall is claimed to be the father of Kennedy's daughter, Helen, born about 1794. Kennedy took McDouall to court alleging that he had married her and was the father of her daughter. Initially, the courts ruled in Kennedy's favor, but McDouall appealed the decision. Kennedy died in 1795, before a ruling could officially be made. However, the courts eventually ruled that while no marriage existed between Kennedy and McDouall, McDouall was indeed the father of the child in question and he was ordered to pay her 3,000 pounds. McDouall went on to have a legitimate marriage, though is said to have fathered numerous illegitimate children.

Burns had actually previously met Kennedy when she was 18, penning the poem "Young Peggy" in tribute to her (2). The poem was published in 1787, and Burns was said to have been impressed by her beauty and wit. When he wrote of her later in 1791, he wrote of her lament at being spurned by her "fause Luvver," illustrating a beautiful nature that keeps moving on in the face of unrequited love.

- (1) [History of Parliament](#)
(2) [RobertBurns.Org](#)

Happy 90th Birthday!



I would like to extend a warm and loving Happy 90th Birthday, on August 10, 2020, to our past Society President and my father, Richard MacDougall!

May your life continue to be blessed with the love of family and friends near and far!

Thank you for taking such pride in our heritage and name, and teaching its importance to the next generations. We honor your commitment to the MacDougall Society these last 40 years! Happy birthday!

With a heart full of love,
Anne, Dave, Rich, Robb, and Doug, our loved ones, and
your grandchildren and great grandchildren!

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Persons wishing to submit articles, photos, or
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Birth Announcement



*Micheal (Misha) and Don Lowther
would like to announce the birth of
their first Grandchild, Hazel Belle.
Born August 4th weighing 7 lbs and
10 ozs to Sophie and Hezekiah.
She is such a bundle of joy and the
light of our lives.*



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.

Renew Membership

Please Do Not Forward

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We ask that you do not forward this publication to non-members.
We are informed that doing so places our Society at risk of violating current internet privacy laws.

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