

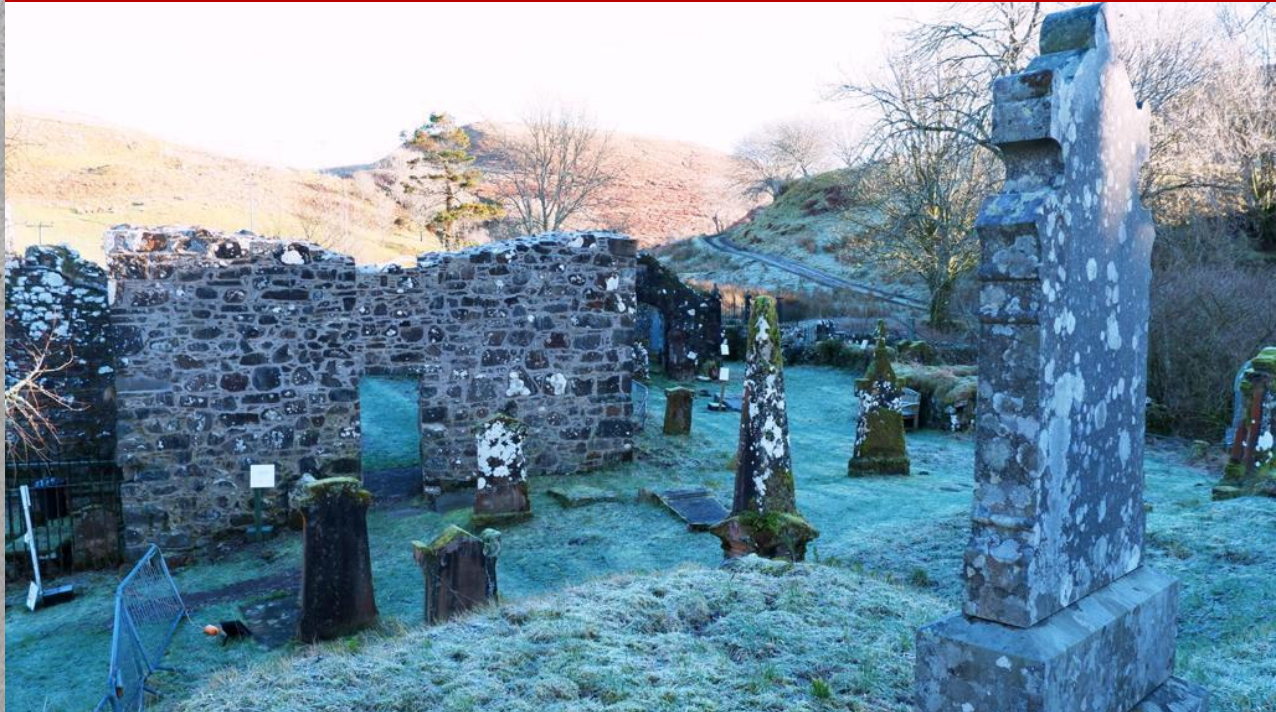


The Raven

Monthly Newsletter of the
Clan MacDougall Society of North America



Historic Environment Scotland awards £68,500 funding to Historic Kilbride



Historic Environment Scotland (HES) has awarded £68,500 funding to Historic Kilbride from its Covid Recovery Fund to support Scotland's historic environment sector from the impacts of the pandemic.

This funding will enable Friends of Kilbride to undertake Phase 3 of its programme of restoration and renovation of the Kirk and Session House in Lerags Glen. This will involve removal of the root bore of a large and invasive sycamore in the northwest corner of the Kirk, and consolidation of the north wall, session house, and wall heads. The sycamore root bore, from a tree felled ten years ago, has been identified as presenting the most serious threat to the stability of the extant buildings, and at present it is not possible to access either the session house or the north side of the Kirk because of the danger of falling masonry.

The project follows on from Phase 2, in which the west gable wall was rebuilt and the West door made safe. This was made possible by generous grants from the Caraig Gael Wind Farm Community Trust and the Clan MacDougall Society of North America. During those works, which took place in the summer, a trench was opened, which revealed that the original cobbled floor of the Kirk is intact. It cannot, however, presently be exposed and restored because of the ongoing risk of damage posed by the sycamore root bore.

The works will be undertaken in early 2021 by stonemason Michael Hogg and TreeWorks Oban. The project will be supervised by consultant architect Shauna Cameron and consultant archaeologist Dr. Clare Ellis of Argyll Archaeology.

Seymour Adams, Chair of Friends of Kilbride, said: "We are delighted to receive this generous grant from Historic Environment Scotland, which recognises both the importance of the ruins at Kilbride and the success of the first two phases of our conservation programme. By the time the site reopens to the

public in the spring, local craftsmen will have transformed the visitor experience of Historic Kilbride, despite the Covid 19 pandemic.”

Alex Paterson, Chief Executive at HES, said: “From museums in the Highlands to historic venues and buildings in central Scotland and the Borders, we are pleased to support a diverse range of projects the length and breadth of Scotland as part of the Historic Environment Recovery Fund. By helping to protect jobs, reopen historic sites and maintaining investment in traditional skills training and apprenticeships, we hope to support the wider recovery of the sector and Scotland’s economy.”

For further information visit: <http://www.friendsofkilbride.scot/>

The John A. McDougall Memorial Scholarship Program

Applications are now being accepted for the John A. McDougall Memorial Scholarships.

The purpose of the scholarship program is to financially support learning endeavors that enhance knowledge or appreciation of the Society and/or our cultural heritage.

Applications will be accepted until April 1, 2021.

[Program Details](#)

[Application Form](#)

Our scholars are very good at keeping us updated on their progress. Though it is now February, we still wanted to share this message we received during the holiday season from Sage Tousey’s mother, Jen.

"Greetings!

We just wanted to share a few thoughts from our end of the world!

You and your support matter! Whether you have supported Sage financially this year or the year before when she started, Sage would not have been able to pursue Highland dance at all without the support you have shown her. She continues to practice and to learn and seeks ways to participate in Highland dance how she can in these unprecedented times.

You are thought of and appreciated. We believe in things like community and prayer and we include you in both of these.

We like to give and share too! Because we know what goes around, comes around!! Sage and Coach Emma and mom went around and did a little POP UP Dancing at some LA/Hollywood iconic places and then created this little video for you all to spread a little Christmas Cheer, Scottish style! SO.... Thank You for who you are and all you do! Enjoy and Merry Christmas!"



and a wee message from Sage:



Another of our scholars, Audrey Trawick, remains as busy as usual. You can read all the details in her latest newsletter, which can be downloaded through the button below.

[Audrey's Newsletter](#)

The John A. McDougall Memorial Scholarships help fulfill one of our primary missions: to perpetuate Scottish traditions and customs. They are made possible by generous and faithful member support. If you are able, please consider lending a hand by clicking the button below.

Thank you!

[Donate](#)

Mhòrag a' Mhòrag: A MacDougall Lullaby

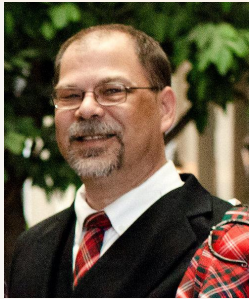
The Oban Gaelic Choir, based out of Oban, Argyll, Scotland, is one of the oldest Gaelic choirs in Scotland. Recently, the Choir worked virtually to bring an old song new life. *Mhòrag a' Mhòrag* is a song that, according the Choir, was one of the last collected by the last bard of Clan MacDougall. Dugald Gordon MacDougall (1845-1914) collected the lullaby, which was said to be written by a clansman to his daughter upon return from the Battle of Dàil Rìgh near Tyndrum in 1306. In this battle, Clan MacDougall went head to head with famed Robert the Bruce and claimed victory (though, ultimately, Clan MacDougall lost the war). The verses describe the battle and Bruce's retreat, and the chorus sings: 'Morag, Morag, I will come to Dunollie with you; Morag Morag, you will see the new moon there.'

Past Society President, Ashby McCown writes:

Rachel Walker created a wonderful melody. Moreover, combining the individual recordings into a choral piece was a remarkable technical feat.

I have been fond of this particular poem for many years. First it demonstrates why clans need their own poets. John Barbour told Bruce's version. Our poet makes clear that this was a major battle that we won. It chides the losers. I love the line, "Is De-la-Haye, chan fhanadh e"// "And de la Haye, he would not stay." But also an old soldier, on returning from the battle, memorializes the victory by passing the story on as a lullaby for his granddaughter. The final line of the chorus, "'S chi thu 'ghealach ùr ann'"// "and you will see there is a new moon" reflects the title of Dugald's collection, "Bràiste Lathurna"// "The Brooch of Lorn".

[Listen to the Choir](#)



Winter has finally decided to make an appearance in Minnesota after a season of record high temperatures. When we visited Oklahoma last month, it was no exaggeration to notice they had seen more snow than we had up to that point. The white stuff is still lacking but we have now been plunged into our usual deep freeze. The world seems suddenly “normal” again and there is an excuse to hide away in the office processing member renewals.

Our Society experienced a couple of personnel changes this past month. Long time officer Don MacDougall decided it was finally time to fully embrace retirement. Don served our Society faithfully for many years, including a stint as President from 2005-2007, as Treasurer for some time after that, and as a member of the Board of Directors. All of this was done without fanfare and it is high time we all offer him a well earned “Thank you!” for all he did to better our group!

The Board has accepted my appointment of COL (RET.) John Dowdle of Alexandria, VA to fill out the remainder of Don’s term on the Board. John, and his wife Cynthia, are enthusiastic about their heritage and bring a wide variety of life experiences to the table. We are quite excited to have them on the team and hope to tell you more of their story in a later issue.

In other news, it became necessary for our President Elect, Chris MacDougall, to step back from that position as the load of his professional responsibilities were increasing in “the real world”. After consulting the leadership team, it was decided that Chris would return to his previous position of Secretary of the Society. He had served in this capacity for several years prior to this past July and is comfortable (and well suited) to that role. Misha Lowther, who had succeeded Chris to the Secretary position, agreed to step into the President Elect role and this arrangement was approved by the Board at their January meeting.

Outside the office, my family enjoyed taking part in The Imagine Alba Virtual Ceilidh: A Burns Night Hooley on January 23, 2021. Pulling together a virtual concert with musicians scattered all over the globe was a bit of a technological marvel. It seems the experience was well enjoyed by performers and spectators alike and we look forward to giving it another go in the near future. If you missed the show, just click the image below to see the recording.



As a bit of a “Thank you” to Rab and Michelle at Imagine Alba for arranging all the fun, I would like

to now give a shameless plug for their newly released album, *The Woods Family's Finest Tonic™*. It is a wonderful mixture of American and Scot, just like the creators themselves. As they say on their website:

Do you suffer from low moods, a broken funny bone or Dad Dancing Disorder? Then you need a dose of *The Woods Family's Finest Tonic™*!

Blended Americana, made in Scotland. That's how The Woods Family describe their flavoursome transatlantic mojo of 11 herbs and spices.

"We take some roots from the Mother Country and beef that up with classic American country & western music," shares producer Rab Woods. "Then we add some old time herbs, a few sprigs each of bluegrass and jazz, and for some sweet notes, more than a dash of blues."

Georgette and I have been playing it nonstop!
Click the cover image to visit the site and pick up
your own copy for only £9.99, available as an
immediate digital download. I think you'll really
like what you hear!

Until next month,

Kyle Jones
President, CMSNA



Freeing the Captives

In our younger years, we look to retirement with a certain vision: relaxing on a sandy beach, having time for all of the hobbies pushed aside, enjoying the lack of a nine to five schedule. However, for some, retirement brings an even bigger adventure than that already had. This is the case for Reverend Chaplain Lloyd McDougall (pictured right with Brother John Kamwaza).

McDougall currently splits his time between Malawi (located in southeastern Africa), the Philippines, and his native Canada. Having served the Church and sending 11 others of African missions for many years prior to retirement, McDougall felt the calling to serve in a missionary capacity with his wife. "We felt it was our time and our turn to be sent rather than to send others, so we volunteered with an agency our Church had worked with called Emmanuel International."



Starting off working with a project focusing on safe drinking water in Malawi in 2009, McDougall soon felt a different calling after being introduced to the local prison outreach by the church elders in the city of Zomba. Their outreach dealt with the local Central Prison, but there are also many functioning prison farms outside of the town. "I felt a real call and urgency to reach out to the prisoners there, whose spiritual needs were relatively neglected compared to those in the main prison," McDougall explained. His work grew, requiring trips every two weeks until the end of the term in December 2013. When McDougall returned home to Canada, he didn't forget his mission back in Africa, establishing the Freeing the Captives agency in August of 2017.

The mission of the Freeing the Captives agency is to “seek to advance the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in English speaking Canada, in Africa, and in Asia, but Evangelism and Chaplaincy in Prisons, bringing freedom to those held captive to sin, guilt, shame, unforgiveness, bitterness and rejection.” The agency does this through many avenues, such as helping former inmates adjust back into society, provide counseling for inmates and their families, and assisting in the restorative justice process. To date, the agency has ministered to over 1,000 inmates in 12 prisons, and has expanded to begin work in the Philippines.

McDougall, interestingly, is only the third known MacDougall descendent to have lived in Malawi – one being a tobacco trader during the colonial era, and the other being Dr. David Livingstone, a physician and Christian missionary (Livingstone is an associate family of Clan MacDougall). While in Africa, Rev. Chaplain McDougall had the opportunity to participate in the celebration of 150 years of the Anglican Church in Africa, and the 40th anniversary of the Evangelical Baptist Church of Malawi. When he is not working on his mission work, McDougall spends time with family in Canada and the Philippines, and travels Africa.

Anyone wishing to support Freeing the Captives may do so by sending a donation to Freeing the Captives, 6572 Treviso Terrace, Mississauga, ON, Canada, L5N 4K3 (note: for United States citizens, a tax deductible receipt is unable to be issued).



Rev. Chaplain Lloyd McDougall at a baptism for youth prison inmates

Learn a Gaelic Phrase

Good Morning

Phrase: madainn mhath

Pronunciation: matin va

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Dùn Ollaigh

A Great Stronghold



www.dunollie.org

Dùn Ollaigh - A Great Stronghold, is a 40 minute documentary about the fascinating heritage of Dunollie Castle ruin - its significance in Scottish history, the origins of the Clan MacDougall and stories of those who once lived there.

Created by The MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust in partnership with MMCM Media. All proceeds raised from film will go back into the conservation works at Dunollie Museum, Castle & Grounds.

Click the cover image above to get your copy today!

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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

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We are informed that doing so places our Society at risk of violating current internet privacy laws.

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