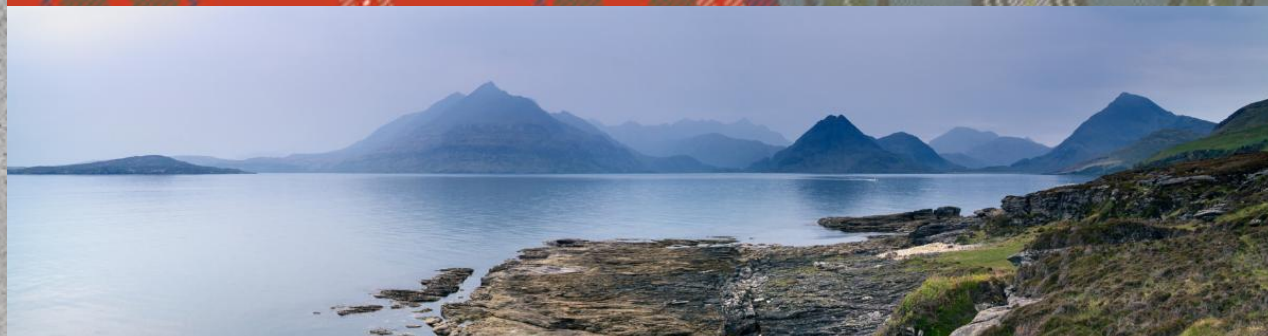


January 2022



The Raven

Monthly Newsletter of the
Clan MacDougall Society of North America



I hope the new year finds all of you healthy and happy. Here in Minnesota, it rolled in bringing along some truly bitter cold weather. Yes, we're used to it up here, but that doesn't mean we have to like it.

Your year end contributions have been rolling in, providing me a good excuse to stay inside at the computer getting everything processed and updated. I know Treasurer Barry Marler and Membership VP Valerie McDougall have been working just as hard to keep up with it all. It is so gratifying to know that you all place such value on what we are doing together.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

Covid permitting, remember to book your trip to **Dunollie Museum, Castle, and Grounds** this Spring to help them get the season off to a great start! You'll be able to see the wonderful new exhibits that your donations helped make possible and bring us home some great photos for *The Raven*. Emma Sutcliffe, General Manager of the MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust, has written us with more details of the season ahead, which you will find below.

Lastly, as you will see below, I am saddened to report to you the death of Bill MacDougall. His work as an author helped educate and entertain our Society and he will be missed.

Kyle Jones
President, CMSNA

50th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk By John Dowdle

Clan MacDougall Society of North America marched in the 50th Annual Alexandria Scottish Walk this year (Jon MacLucas pictured). Last year's parade was cancelled due to Covid, but a huge crowd turned up on a wonderful, unseasonably warm and sunny December day (mid to high 50s) to cheer on this year's parade participants. Between 160-175 different organizations marched in the parade, making it one of the largest

parades since its inception. Clan MacDougall Society had about 14-15 participants marching in the parade. After the parade, 18 members met for lunch at historic Gadsby's Tavern.

We 'lucked out' this year. We were situated towards the front of the line-up within the clans at about the middle of the parade. That may have something to do with our registering early in the process. Again, it was an unseasonably warm and sunny day for December, especially when compared to the weather of the last 3 parades! Cynthia Loden-Dowdle and Jon MacLucas brought candy for clan participants to throw to the crowd while marching in the parade, and that was an enormous success with the kids as well as more than a few adults!



Just a note for those marching in future parades: The organizers this year separated the clans in the march by a block or more. We presumed this was to prevent the 'accordion' effect from causing bottlenecks at corners, etc. However, clans quickly became so spread out that there were big gaps in the parade and you lost sight of the clan in front of you. By attempting to make up the distance those of us up front with the banner soon began outpacing those in the middle and the back of our group. Fortunately, the parade slowed, and everyone caught up near the end. We were in perfect 'clan formation' by the time we paraded past



the dignitaries in the reviewing stand. Otherwise, the parade went off without a hitch, and everyone really enjoyed the experience.

Another speaker was scheduled to talk about the origins and wearing of classic Highland clothing, but they had to cancel about 2 weeks prior to the parade due to ongoing Covid restrictions. Therefore, Virginia State Representative John Dowdle, with the assistance of Mid-Atlantic Region Commissioner Jon MacLucas, agreed to step in and provide presentations on 2 strategy games found in ancient Scotland along with an overview history of Scottish Gallowglass warriors. John hosted the Clan MacDougall society tent at 2 games this year and found that these 2 displays generated enormous interest from casual passers-by as well as Scottish game participants.



John first discussed the Viking chess game Hnefatafl (pronounced nef-ah-tah'-fel and pictured), which was brought to Scotland by the Vikings. It was played for hundreds of years in Scotland and elsewhere across Europe before gradually being displaced by western chess in the 12th-13th centuries. Hnefatafl has had a major resurgence in popularity in the last few decades in Great Britain, Ireland, and northern Europe/Scandinavia. John then moved into a discussion on the



background and history of the Isle of

Lewis chess pieces, one of the most significant, if not THE most significant archeological find in Scotland to this point in history. John touched on the mystery, controversy, and theoretical but still unknown origins of the pieces. He had a display of both games set up along with replica pieces of the chess set on each table for guests to touch and see up close. Finally, John talked about the Scottish Gallowglass warriors that fought in Ireland for over 400 years, and their links to the MacDougall and MacDowall clans. John brought an Irish Gallowglass sword and an Irish Sparth Axe (both modern reproductions) for a show and tell on Gallowglass weapons. Jon M. also demonstrated a 2-handed version of the sword as well as articulating additional, unique information on the Gallowglass. John also provided handouts on the topics, which are also available in this issue.

After the presentations, Cynthia Loden-Dowdle led a raffle and drawing for Christmas presents (in Cynthia language, “chotskies” ☺) donated by members. Jon M. also brought clan related mementoes to hand out to all luncheon attendees.

Both ‘John and Jon’ discussed potential society activities for 2022 (with an eye on continuing Covid precautions). They then provided a plaque to Bill and Cathy McHoul, who retired this year after many years of serving as the Mid-Atlantic regional commissioners. Bill and Cathy contributed much time, effort, and expense to ensure the society was well represented in the Mid-Atlantic Region. They will be sorely missed, but as it stated on the plaque, ‘You Made a Difference!’ We wish Bill and Cathy the very best moving forward, and we wish for Bill to enjoy many relaxing rounds of golf!



Download the Handouts Below

Update from Dunollie

Happy New Year! Hope you had a wonderful Christmas.

2022 Opening

We are delighted to say that we are working towards a fully operational seasonal opening this year, which (touch wood) will be from April-October. We are very excited to welcome the public and our supporters back to Dunollie. With lots of additional activities scheduled, we hope that there will be lots that people can enjoy in as near to normal environment as we can manage.

Garden, Links and Digital (GLAD) Funding

The Staff and Trustees of the MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust, who operate Dunollie Museum, Castle & Grounds in Oban, Argyll are delighted to announce that they have received £114,854 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a year-long project focused on Gardens, Links and Digital (GLAD). The project, which will cost £120,597 in total, will start in March 2022. Supported through the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Dunollie GLAD will include a packed list of activities, including adding to and upgrading Dunollie's Historic Woodland Grounds, providing engaging activities for the local community, as well as family days out and activities for a younger age group.

Three members of staff will form the Dunollie GLAD project team, which will include new posts for a Heritage Garden Leader and Digital Content Assistant. Dunollie will also be actively looking for new volunteers to help support and deliver the project.

Exhibition Funding

The Curatorial Team are well underway with next year's temporary exhibition about Hope MacDougall's photographs and the re-interpretation of the 1745 House. They are being helped enormously by Neerja, our student placement and are on course for opening in April 2022. *Hope Behind the Lens* will focus on the local photography that Hope undertook, with objects from the collection supporting the images and interpretation. The 1745 House reinterpretation has been planned, and will include adding to and reprinting the panels in the downstairs kitchen and corridors, as well as upstairs. The team are also planning to build a replica stove aimed at a younger audience. In the course of their planning, the team have identified even more ideas for the re-interpretation of the 1745 House with the help of the Tour Guides, so after April will be working on these ideas, which will mainly result in upgrading the ground floor exhibition room.

All the best,

Emma Sutcliffe
General Manager
MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust
Dunollie, Museum, Castle & Grounds



New Members

William Rice
South Wellfleet, MA

David McDowell
Mission Viejo, CA

Virginia Hennessy
Benbrook, TX

Justin McDougall
Alpharetta, GA

Richard MacDowell
Reston, VA

Hunter McDougal
Clinton, MS

Larry McDowell
Bay Minette, AL

Paul McDowell
Sebastian, FL

Suzette Murray
Warrenville, IL

Jessica Miller
Honoraville, AL

Daniel Tracey, Jr.
Montross, VA

Alison Shetter
Boulder, CO

Flowers of the Forest



William L. MacDougall

"William L. MacDougall, age 90, of Westminster, CO passed away on December 2, 2021. As a journalist, he wrote for the US Air Force, Washington Star, US News and World Report, and US Fish & Wildlife. He was also a proud member of Clan MacDougall."

Published by The Washington Post, December 12, 2021

An accomplished writer, Bill may perhaps be best known to members as the co-author of *The MacDowalls*, along with other Clan-related publications. His family line descends from the Makdougalls of Makerstoun from Clan MacDowall.

Contact Us

Kyle Jones
President
president@macdougall.org

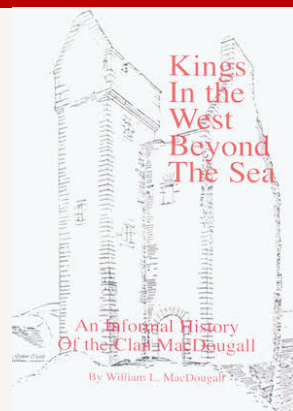
Misha Lowther
President Elect
president_elect@macdougall.org

Valerie McDougall
V.P. for Membership
membership@macdougall.org

Scott MacDougall
V.P. for Canada
vpcanada@macdougall.org

Barry Marler
Treasurer
treasurer@macdougall.org

Chris MacDougall
Secretary/Archivist
secretary@macdougall.org

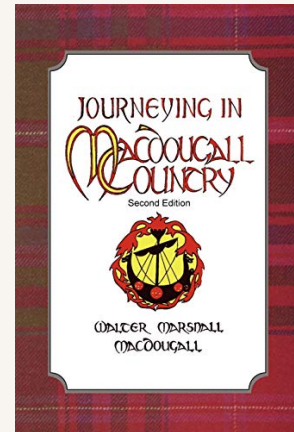
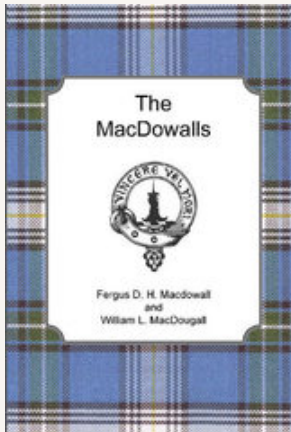


Now Out of Print. Only 10 Copies Remain!

Bill's book, *Kings in the West Beyond the Seas* is an informal history told through real-life stories, starting with Somerled, whose son Dougall founded the clan, and continuing with their notable descendants up to modern times. The book is intended to be an easy reading narrative containing accounts of dozens of clansmen and women who left Scotland and emigrated to all other parts of the world, where their descendants are thriving today.



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Newsletter Submissions

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

Lindsay Davis, Editor
newseditor@macdougall.org

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