

JULY 2020



The Raven

Monthly Newsletter of the

Clan MacDougall Society of North America



From the Desk of the President

It seems odd to reach this part of July and not be packing bags for the journey to North Carolina and the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. It is an event many of us look forward to all year. The Covid-19 pandemic has ruined most of our fun, with all games being cancelled for the year, with the possible exception of the **Covenanter Scottish Festival** on September 12th. This is the only games we have not yet heard from. Please continue to check their site for updates. If you do plan to attend, please do all you can to remain safe. Your health is worth protecting, no matter the cause.

The big Society news has been that we have had a change of leadership. I have succeeded Scott MacDougall as Society President. This would usually be done with some small amount of ceremony at Grandfather Mountain, but this year it just happened silently in the background on the first of July. I am thankful, just the same, for the honor and opportunity to serve.

Along with the change in the Presidency, comes a new Executive Committee to help me along the way. Our Secretary/Archivist, Chris MacDougall, has now become our President Elect with our Oklahoma Representative, Misha Lowther, stepping in to fill his former role. Our previous President, Scott MacDougall, has regained his former role as the VP for Canada. Our VP for Membership, Valerie McDougall, and our VP for Treasury, Barbara Osgood, will provide some consistency by remaining in those positions.

I am excited to be working with this new team! They are an ambitious lot with a great many ideas and are already hard at work. Our goals are to work hard on the growth of our Society, continuing many of the programs Scott and I instituted during the past three years. We also intend to bring you a variety of new content to increase your engagement and enjoyment of your membership. We will be sharing the details of these projects in future newsletters as each is completed.

To help us accomplish this, I have revitalized our Communications and Heritage committees. These committees are now staffed by a number of members who exemplify the volunteer spirit that is so typical of the Scots. I thank them all for their willingness to serve our Clans! I am a firm believer in the old adage, "many hands make light work", so there is still a place for you if you wish to join the team. You may submit the **Volunteer Form** or email me directly to let us know of your interest.

Kyle Jones
President, CMSNA

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Volunteer Spotlight: John McDowall



Q: What is your role as a member of the Internet and Technology Committee?

A: I am currently the Society's webmaster. I maintain the back end of our website: helping new users register for accounts, updating menus or pages, performing backups, and otherwise doing my best to keep things running smoothly. I also built and maintain some of our online forms, like the membership registration form.

Q: What other things does your committee do?

A: The Internet and Technology Committee focuses on all aspects of using information technology to better serve members of the Society. In addition to the website, we maintain social media accounts that publish items of interest to Society members, investigate ways to improve how we communicate with members, and try to help the Society better fulfill its mission into the 21st century (and beyond).

Q: What prompted you to volunteer your time and talents for the Society?

A: There was an item in The Tartan calling for volunteers to help with the website, The Tartan, and other tasks. I thought, "I have some free time, and I think I have some useful talents, I'll give it a shot." I have been interested in my Scottish heritage for as long as I can remember, and this seemed like a good way to get more involved and learn more. (And I was right.)

Q: What is your favorite part about your role as a volunteer?

A: It is impossible to single out one thing. Learning more about Clan MacDowall (and Clan MacDougall) and feeling like I am contributing to the preservation of that heritage for future generations is a big part of it. I have also had a great opportunity to meet people from across North America and from all walks of life. Also the ability to help lead this fine organization. It's not run by a small group that shuns outsiders, it is run by anyone who wants to help out; I was warmly welcomed and before long I was asked to be part of the Board of Directors.

[Volunteer Now](#)

Board Approves Donations

Dunollie Castle

The Society Board of Directors has approved a donation, in the amount of \$5,000, to assist in the ongoing preservation efforts for Dunollie Castle. The remaining Phase III work is focused on stabilizing the northwest and northwest walls of the castle, access to the original stone stairs into the internal first floor common hall, and a viewing platform on level two. Phase III was well underway when halted

due to COVID-19, with only days left to completion. Efforts are scheduled to restart, and finish, in mid-July 2020, with approximately ten days of work left to complete. The photo shows the North East side of Dunollie Castle in 2009.



Kilbride

The Board of Directors of the Society has also approved a \$2,000 donation to assist in efforts at Kilbride. The site, located about 4 miles south of Oban, has been a burial place of Clan MacDougall Chiefs as long ago as 1616 and as recently as 1990. The Church building itself is the latest in a series of Christian Churches on the site which date back to the original founding by St. Bride about 525 AD.

Friends of Kilbride (**FRoK**) Trustee, Myra Griffin writes,

"We have recently completed a repair to the outer wall of the MacDougall Memorial Aisle, carried out by Rowan Stoneworks, and I have attached a before and after photograph of this."



"We are also very happy to report that we have finally commenced the run-up to Stage 2 of our Preservation Plan when Historic Environment Scotland granted us Scheduled Monument Consent to proceed with the work on the west gable. Today the scaffolders arrived on site to erect the scaffolding needed to protect the workforce. Argyll Archaeology will be on site from next Monday to Wednesday (incl) to carry out the dig to establish the actual floor level of the original church. This will take the form of excavating a 3m. x 1m. trench, inside and outside the Gable wall. (We intend to take many videos/photos of the progress, so will keep you up to date). From Thursday, 16th July, Colin Rowan of Rowan Stoneworks will be carrying out the actual stabilisation work and will be on site for approximately 4 weeks. (Again we will keep you informed of progress with photos/videos.)"

We are all very excited about moving to the next stage and ensure that the Historic Site that is Kilbride will be preserved for future generations.

Regards to you all and a big thank you!



Both of these donations were made possible by the generous and faithful giving of our members. This tangible support of our historic sites is one of the central purposes of our Society and our members have consistently answered the call. You can take great pride in the work that continues to be achieved.

Congrats, Grads!



The Class of 2020 may not have been able to walk across the stage, but that does not lessen their accomplishment! Please join us in congratulating our kin on their success, and reading about the future plans of two students, Oliver McDougal and Geordan McDougal Jones.

Featured Grad: Oliver McDougal

When attending high school, each student looks forward to the day where they walk across the stage, gain their diploma, and move to the rank of alumnus.

This year, this vision has been disrupted for many students due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this, families have found ways to celebrate these major accomplishments, and the family of Oliver McDougal is no different.

On June 12, 2020, Oliver officially graduated from Cleveland High School in Cleveland, Tennessee. In the fall, Oliver will head to the University of Tennessee to major in criminal justice with a minor in history. "My hope is to earn my undergraduate degree and continue on to law school," writes Oliver. Oliver cites his uncle, Troy McDougal, as a mentor in this chosen career path. "He serves as magistrate in juvenile court in the country in which he lives, and I've learned a lot from his experience."



His dream is to become a judge, something his family says fits him perfectly. However, before taking on being a judge, Oliver is looking forward to college. "I am most looking forward to life on campus and meeting new people. I eagerly anticipate engaging in university life and the opportunities it will afford me."

Featured Grad: Geordan McDougal Jones



Geordan McDougal Jones graduated from the University of Minnesota Morris with her Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Arts. She has recently relocated to the Minneapolis area, where she plans to work with AmeriCorps as a member of Reading Corps, assisting elementary school students with their literacy skills, while she waits for the Minneapolis theatre scene to open back up.

Geordan is a talented vocalist, actor, and dancer. Her work includes musical theatre roles, as well as voice acting work in several podcasts and video games. Our members will be familiar with her voice from our presentation for the 2019 Clan MacDougall Gathering, available on our **Facebook Group**. She is a proud Life Member of our Society.

Welcome to The McDowell House

One of our newest members is *The McDowell House Museum* which honors the work of pioneer surgeon Ephraim McDowell, whose story was told in our April 2020 issue of The Tartan newsletter. His former home, office, and



pharmacy are beautifully restored to early nineteenth century elegance and open to visitors at The McDowell House Museum at 125 South Second St. Danville, KY. Its web site is <http://www.mcdowellhouse.com>.

Flowers of the Forest

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Calgary, AB

Carol Rae Spilman
West Hollywood, CA

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

The Tartan Editor
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Gifting

Bonnie Prince Charlie Jacket and Vest, dry cleaned and in perfect condition, looking for a new home with the right clansman who wears size 52 Regular, Style 37491. A dark green Heritage kilt shirt is also available.

Loved but worn only a few times, the jacket in the photo, made in Great Britain for the Hector Russell Kiltmaker Group in Inverness, Scotland.

Pay only the shipping expense from Washington State. For more information please contact Ruth MacDougall at rlgm45@outlook.com





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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