

July 2023



The Raven

Monthly Newsletter of the
Clan MacDougall Society of North America



© Misha Lowther

Faillte air mo charaidean. (*Welcome my friends.*)

I have always loved the Scottish Highlands. I have never been to Scotland. Stories, books, and movies created the interest, love, and passion for this culture. Then I realized I had an actual Scottish heritage through genealogy and the passion grew. Now I find myself as President of CMSNA with a global group who share that passion.



I had the wonderful experience to share that passion at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games for the second time in 2023. Linville, North Carolina is beautiful country. Grandfather Mountain is amazing! Our tent on the mountain this year was hosted by Doug MacDougall, Connor, Jon MacLucas - our MidAtlantic Regional Commissioner, and a host of other volunteers. I cannot tell you how exciting and friendly the atmosphere was inside the tents this July. We signed up xx new supporting members that weekend (July 6th through the 9th). I met Katana Truluck, Tonya Guy, Doug and his family from Hawaii who all became new supporting members of our Society. I love that the hospitality tents at GMHG give us a great visiting opportunity. It's a joy to get to know people who love the things you love, like our heritage, culture, and traditions.

Each new supporting member assists in our purposes with each annual contribution made. I can't

express enough the excitement that generates in those of us who volunteer our time, effort and energy to these types of weekends. This is what we love, who we are, what we do! We, as a nonprofit, get the gratifying and exciting opportunities to keep our culture and heritage alive for future generations. We do this through the donations made by each supporting member at Games, during our Fall Campaign, and our Scholarship fundraising efforts. As a supporting member of this Society and a reader of *The Raven*, you also make all of these possibilities a reality. Thank You!

Misha Lowther
President, CMSNA

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games



Thursday's events held on the mountain were engaging and fun. Though the tents aren't usually open until Friday morning, we hung out and met some interesting families, friends, and clan members. After dark, Ilee, the daughter of Prentice MacDougall and granddaughter of Malcolm MacDougall, graced our Clan with a **spectacular introduction** at the Torchlight Ceremony signaling the opening of Grandfather Mountain's Highland Games weekend. *(Skip to timecode 25:50 to hear Ilee.)*

Friday was a grand day for visiting. The weather was beautiful. The day was filled with more friends, family, and fun. The hospitality tent for clan MacDougall was never empty. The visits were plentiful. Catching up with those you only see at the Games is a wonderful time. I had a chance to wander the festival and even catch a tik tok celebrity, the Hebridean Baker at a small ceilidh in the early evening. The energy at our display tent was amazing, positive, and happy all day long and even carrying over to Saturday.

Saturday was our big sign-up day for new kinsmen. I loved meeting Tonya, Katana, Doug and his family from HI, and talking with Neal, Nancy, Richard, Heather, Whitney, and others in the hospitality tent. It was incredible! It is so personally exciting for me to be able to share what we do as a nonprofit with those who are curious about their heritage and the Scottish culture.

Saturday evening after festival, we had a lovely dinner at the Dan'l Inn. It was a casual affair where we got the opportunity to share the present and reminisce about the past. We had a few of our past presidents, officers, and editors present to share their stories as well. It was so heartwarming and enlightening.

I missed the Tartan parade and the kirkin on Sunday as I flew home Sunday. I know others had a blast and Sunday was just as enjoyable as the previous days for those who could attend.

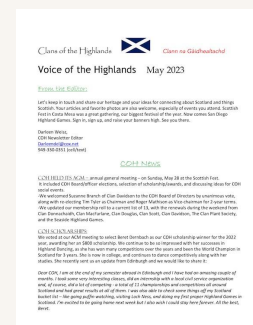
I always come away from Grandfather Mountain Highland Games reinvigorated and ready to go. Thank you to our host, Doug MacDougall, and his helpers Jon MacLucas, John Dowdle, Connor, and all the others who pitched in at the tents. You all did a wonderful job making the experience one-of-a-kind for our guests.

Grandfather Mountain is full of wonders and magic that fill the soul. We hope you will find that magic and similar wonders at Highland Games across the continent as well as enjoy belonging to Clan MacDougall and Clan MacDowall. Supporting the Scottish culture, heritage, and traditions run deep. God Bless.

California

Hi MacDougalls and McDowalls,

Here is the May issue of our local Clans of the Highlands newsletter to keep in touch and share our heritage. *(Click the document.)* Scottish Fest in Costa Mesa was a great gathering, our biggest festival of the year, and a great success. There were over 60 clan societies represented, including ours.



Mark-David McCool and his wife Ana-Paula



McCool Table Display

Our Society's hospitality tent was run by Mark-David McCool and his wife Ana-Paula. They also helped out last year. She designed and made the sheep cookie jar, and Mark is waving the MacDougall flag of the Pacific Crescent Region that dressed up the clan march. They are life members of the Society and a great support to our local festivals. Here are a few photos of them and their creative displays as they welcomed members and visitors.



Ana-Paula McCool's cute cookie jar.



Mark-David McCool with the Pacific Crescent flag.

On now to the San Diego Highland Games in Vista. We won't have a hospitality tent there this year, but do enjoy the festival and all the events of the weekend listed below.

Darleen Weisz,
CMSNA Southern California Representative

Ontario



Scott MacDougald, VP Canada, with Doug MacDonell and Valerie McDougall, Ontario Rep. and VP Membership.

Greetings, CMSNA Members!

We are excited to share with you some highlights from our recent adventures in Ontario, Canada, as we continue to celebrate our Scottish heritage. Join us as we recount the wonderful experiences we had at the newest Highland Games in Kingsville and the 86th Embro Highland Games.

Kingsville Highland Games: A Scottish Morning to Remember

On June 24th, CMSNA proudly attended Ontario's newest Highland Games held in the charming town of Kingsville. The day began with the quintessential Scottish ambiance—a touch of fog and a misty drive. Our venue for the event was none other than the Jack Miners Bird Sanctuary, providing a picturesque backdrop for our activities.

Scott MacDougald and Valerie McDougall expertly set up our CMSNA tent between the Donalds and the Fergusons, immersing themselves in the vibrant atmosphere. Throughout the day, our tent welcomed numerous visitors, and we were delighted to be joined by some of our fellow society members in the parade. It was a true celebration of Scottish heritage and camaraderie.

Embro Highland Games: A Day of Revelry and Discoveries

Continuing our journey, on July 1st, Scott MacDougald and Valerie McDougall ventured to the historic town of Embro to partake in the 86th Embro Highland Games. Bathed in glorious sunshine, we found ourselves amidst the enchanting sounds of bagpipes, the mesmerizing movements of Highland Dancers, and the thrilling spectacle of the Tug of War, taking place just behind our CMSNA tent.

Our Clan tent became a hub of storytelling and connection, as MacDougall and MacDowell visitors flocked to share their rich family histories and personal anecdotes. One particularly knowledgeable young man, who had recently embarked on a journey of discovering his family roots, proved to be an invaluable source of information for the MacDowell lineage. We were fortunate to learn a great deal from his wealth of knowledge.

Welcoming Our Newest Member: Doug MacDonell

In the spirit of growth and inclusivity, we extend a warm welcome to our newest member, Doug MacDonell. As the Treasurer of the Clan Donald Society of Southern Ontario and a proud descendant of the McDougall clan, Doug brings a wealth of experience and a shared passion for preserving our heritage. We look forward to working together and strengthening our bonds as we move forward.

Upcoming Events: Cambridge Highland Games and Fergus Scottish Festival

As we continue to embark on our Scottish journey, CMSNA eagerly anticipates its presence at the upcoming Cambridge Highland Games on July 15th and the Fergus Scottish Festival on August 11th. These events provide us with invaluable opportunities to meet and connect with more members of the MacDougall and MacDowell. We encourage you to mark your calendars and join us for these exciting celebrations of Scottish culture.

We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who made our recent events a resounding success. Your enthusiasm and unwavering support bring us closer to our shared goal of preserving and cherishing our Scottish heritage. We can't wait to continue this journey together!

Valerie McDougall

CMSNA Ontario Representative



Mid-Atlantic Region



Brynn Brown, Southeast Region Commissioner Douglas MacDougall, and Jon MacLucas Mid-Atlantic Region Commissioner at GMHG.

It was Saturday, June 6th, 2023. I rushed up to Westminster, MD to attend the Carroll County Celtic Festival held at the Carroll County Agriculture Center. Facing traffic jams and 2 grass fires, I arrived around noon. I spent the next hour enjoying the scene and taking a mental survey. The size of this festival surprised me as this was the 2nd annual gathering. I am looking forward to add to the 17 clan tents next year and making the MacDougall and MacDowall presence part of the festival. There were also 3 re-enactment groups, a full highland athletic competition and a dozen or more vendors inside a large arena plus 3 performing bands. This festival seems to be a revival of the earlier Frederick County Celtic Festival that used to occur in Mt. Airy, MD. The impression that I got was that this event is on par with the Games held at St. Leonard, MD and the Fairhills Games at Elkton, MD. I regretted the fact that we were not represented there. However I am looking forward to being part of this festival next year as it is in my own backyard.

Your roving ambassador,
Jon MacLucas
CMSNA Mid-Atlantic Region Commissioner

PS. I received a flyer from Dunollie spreading the word about the **Clan Gathering** scheduled to occur from **July 30 – August 4th, 2024** in Oban, Scotland. As a past attendee, I can say without reservation that this Gathering is quite a splendid affair and a great way to be introduced to the legacy that is Clan MacDougall. I would encourage anyone with this affiliation to at least look into making the journey across the Atlantic to attend this. It also affords one the opportunity to venture into the Highlands and see what natural splendor that region has.

I would also suggest that one venture down to Kilmartin south of Oban to visit what remains of Dunadd Castle where the footprint of the Dál Riada king is found at the crest and a whole trail of Iron Age stone monuments exist leading up to that castle. Broaches, aligned standing stones, stone circles, and other prehistoric constructs dot that pathway. But be prepared for a hike and don't get lost like did!

The adjacent twisting roadway is not pedestrian friendly and stone fencing comes up to the very edge of the tarmac, meaning that one has to jump onto this narrow stone railing when speeding cars round the bend. I became baptized in a true Scottish fashion by a mighty thistle when I missed the landing spot after one of those leaps to safety. But if you fancy going, do make preparations **NOW**. The accommodations in Oban fill up rapidly and early because July and August in the UK, and Europe in general, are Holiday months.

New Members

James Howell III
West Jefferson, SC

Robert Wetherington
Asheville, SC

Mark MacDougall
Pittsburgh, PA

Doug MacDonell
London, O

Andrea Clem
Weston, WV

Bradley Burdick
Moorsville, NC

Charmaine Webster
Cockeysville, MD

Doug McDowell
Kampala, HI

Scott McCulloch
Colora, MD

Ernest Truluck
Gerton, NC

Alan McDougall
Joppa, MD

James Rogerson, Jr.
Tyler, TX

Stephanie Ingle
Bozeman, MT

Gayle Crosby
Yucaipa, CO

Paul Lingle
Newland, NC

Ryan Boyd
Braunfels, TX

Tonya Guy
Edgefield, SC

Really New Member!

Lindsay Davis, CMSNA Secretary and Editor of *The Raven*, and her husband, Robin, are happy to announce that Lindsay gave birth to wee Charlotte Marion Davis at 2:34pm on July 5, 2023. Mother and child are doing well, and we can all agree she exhibits the typical MacDowall good looks!

Former Board member and webmaster John McDowall and his wife, Michele, are the proud and smitten grandparents. Charlotte is their first granddaughter.

Charlotte is settling in at home, making sure she has everyone wrapped around her wee fingers. Lindsay and Robin hope to introduce Charlotte to the fun of the Scottish games starting next year at Grandfather Mountain!



Scholar Update - Beret Dernbach

Dear Clan MacDougall,

Thank you so much for awarding me a Clan MacDougall scholarship for this year. Please pass on a heartfelt thank you to the scholarship committee and all of Clan MacDougall for another very generous year of scholarship funding. We are so thankful to have folks like you who have been so supportive of my dancing career for many years!

A lot has happened so far in 2023, so I figured I'd send a wee update as well -

I have been in Scotland since January. I took the opportunity to do the final term of my undergraduate degree abroad at the University of Edinburgh. My primary focus whilst here has, of course, been school. I took some very interesting classes this semester - Parliamentary Studies and Visualising Scotland, which discussed representations of Scotland in visual media from paintings and ancient artifacts to photography and film. I tried to take classes that I couldn't take at home for a full immersion experience; it was even cooler that I could visit both the UK and Scottish Parliaments and visit art galleries and museums in Scotland to experience the things I've been learning about first-hand.

I have also been doing an internship with UN House Scotland, which is a civil service organisation working to implement the ideals and sustainable development goals of the United Nations here in Scotland. I have recently been promoted to the position of team leader for the Nuclear Disarmament Team, a position I will continue on with when I return home at the end of May. I have loved every second of my internship work!



But of course, I have also been keeping up with dancing. I have done 10 competitions, championships, and premierships. My first competition of the year was in February at a local competition in Newtonhill (near Aberdeen) where I won the 19 and over group. The first weekend in March I did the SDTA Championship in Paisley (near Glasgow) where I was first runner up in the 18 and under 21 group. A few weeks later I did the UKA premiership and championship in Musselburgh (near Edinburgh). I placed 4th runner up in the premiership and 5th runner up in the championship in a hugely talented 20 and over age group. The following weekend I was in Montrose (near Dundee) for the European Championships, where I was first runner up in the 18 and over group. At the end of April I did a local competition in Aberdeen, where I was 1st runner up, and the Aberdeen Championships where I was 3rd runner up in the 20 and over group. At the beginning of May I did a Coronation-themed competition near Edinburgh where I won the 17 and over group with straight firsts, and was dancer of the day. This past weekend I did 2 more competitions, a local one in Culloden/Inverness which I won with straight firsts and was dancer of the day, and the Gordon Castle Highland Games and Country Fair in Fochabers where I was runner up in the 18 and over group.

I am very proud of my results so far - competitions in Scotland are at a whole different level than those back home and it is exciting to be doing so well. I have also won some beautiful trophies, which unfortunately will have to stay behind in Scotland to ensure they can be awarded again next year. I have made sure to get pictures with all of them, which I have attached. I have one more championship planned before I head home next week, the Lanimer Championships in Lanark.

I have had a great time in Scotland so far, and although I miss home I do wish that I could stay here forever!

Thank you again for your generosity, and I hope to see a Clan MacDougall tent at the San Diego games

next month!

All the best,
Beret

Scholar Update - Brynn Brown

Hello!

We had such a blast at the games this year! It was an unbelievable turnout! (Pun intended/dancer joke) I am a proud mamma. Brynn placed 4th in the Atlantic Championship there on day 1 and on Sunday she placed 3rd overall! There were dancers from Scotland and Canada and all over! She also received an award for having the highest aggregate points for a junior dancer in the Carolinas at this competition! And there's a lot of North Carolinian dancers that compete at Grandfather!

Up next, we are Portland bound for Nationals! Her goal since it's her first time qualifying as a Southeast Representative is to place in any dance. Her dance teacher, Tori Anderson is also an adjudicator in Highland Dance and is very active on the regulating board for highland dance! She is very confident of Brynn's abilities growing stronger each year!



Thank you so much for the scholarship! Please know this broke mamma appreciated every dime you have given to support my daughter! She keeps talking about when she takes her exam to become a teacher of highland dance one day and how she would love to audition for the Virginia International Tattoo or the Edinburgh Tattoo.

As a parent of a highland dancer, I could not financially support her goals on my own. It is unbelievably hard to always be financially strapped month to month when my daughter wants to get better and better! Not only does she do highland lessons twice a week but she takes ballet once a week to help her posture and she sees a chiropractor for scoliosis!

Please do not get rid of your scholarship program. Every dollar makes a ginormous difference and helps out so much. Additionally, we had to replace every single outfit this year as her legs just don't stop growing. I look forward to seeing y'all in the Fall!

Warmly,
Michelle Brown

Upcoming Games



Fergus Scottish Festival

August 11, 2023

Victoria Park

3St David St S

Fergus, ON N1M 2P7



Maine Highland Games & Scottish Festival

August 19, 2023
Estes Park Fairgrounds
Estes Park, CO

Tickets



Longs Peak Scottish-Irish Highland Festival

September 8, 2023
Manford Avenue
Estes Park, CO 80517

Tickets



Columbus Scottish Festival

September 9, 2023
Bartholomew County Fairgrounds
750 W 200 S, Columbus, OH 47201

Tickets



New Hampshire Highland Games

September 15-17, 2023
60 Loon Mountain Road
Lincoln, NH 03251

Tickets



Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games

September 30, 2023
Marion County Fairgrounds
7300 E Troy Ave
Indianapolis, IN 46239

Tickets

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Free Scottish Banner

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Click below for the July 2023 issue!

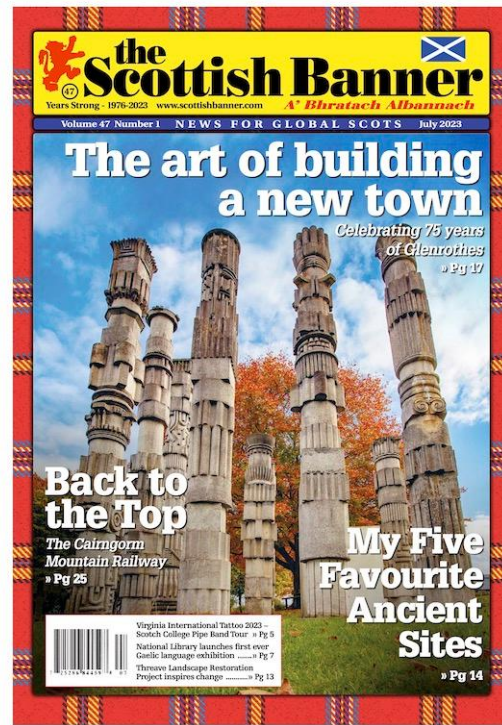
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The Clan MacDougall Society of North America **online store** with the Queensboro Company is your source for **official** CMSNA apparel. A portion of each purchase you make directly benefits the Society's budget and our ability to keep doing all the things you care about.

Thank you for your continued support!

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

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newseditor@macdougall.org

Clan MacDougall Society of North America is a registered 501(c)(3) Nonprofit.

OUR NONPROFIT MISSION

To perpetuate Scottish culture through the collection, preservation, and distribution of literary, historical, and genealogical materials, especially those related to Clan MacDougall and Clan MacDowall. Preservation of heritage sites and relics is of particular importance, as is the education of our kin through learning opportunities and scholarships. Donations in support of these causes is tax deductible in the U.S.

Membership is open to all.

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