



# The Raven



Monthly Newsletter of the  
**Clan MacDougall Society of North America**



I know it's the beginning of November. As this issue of *The Raven* developed, it seemed we had skipped right ahead to Christmas. There is not one mention of turkeys. No pumpkin spice was involved. It was also clear that the issue was becoming a bit long. With that in mind, I'll keep my comments to a few bullet point items of interest.

- **Chief Morag MacDougall of MacDougall** celebrates her birthday this month. I know you all join me in wishing her continuing health and happiness in the year ahead.
- **Jon MacLucas** of Gaithersburg, Maryland was appointed Commissioner of our Mid-Atlantic Region some time ago, succeeding Bill and Cathy McHoul in the post. The McHouls retired to Florida, but remain active in regional events and are helping Jon settle into his new role.
- It is no secret that the pandemic was very hard on the tourism industry, including our beloved **Dunollie Museum, Castle, and Grounds**. Now, with travel opening up, there has never been a better time to make a visit "home" to Dunollie. Consider booking your trip for **THIS** Spring and help them get the season off to a great start!
- Speaking of Dunollie... Our Board of Directors approved the donation of £6,500 to assist with the development of a new exhibition of items from **The Hope MacDougall Collection** at the museum in 2022. These funds are the result of dedicated donations made by **you** throughout the past year. **Thank you!**

Kyle Jones  
President, CMSNA

***Coming soon, to a mailbox near you!***

**You are important to Clan MacDougall Society.** If you haven't already, you'll soon receive your membership contributions appeal for calendar year 2022. Please don't misplace the packet or miss how your membership and generosity have made a difference for the Society, our programs, and our causes.

**What's in it for you?** By responding promptly and generously, you'll help make sure programs continue uninterrupted. You'll continue to enjoy our popular *Tartan* and *Raven* newsletters. Your extra giving will help perpetuate heritage through our scholarships, and history by preserving our historic sites. It will help us create more local events and improve genealogical resources.

**Please read and respond** to the Membership Appeal by December 31 -- and help make your Society and its good works better than ever.

### **Member Feature: Mitch "Santa Claus" McDougal**

What do a glass art studio, an expedition company, and Santa Claus have in common? One Mr. Mitch McDougal. McDougal has experienced life one adventure after another. He owned Lone Wolf Expeditions, which led adventures to go white water rafting, trekking through the South American jungle, and climbing fiery volcanoes. Having traveled the world, McDougal chose to trade his expedition company for time at home and his wife's chance to start a new career in the glass art business. McDougal's wife, Pam, had taken some glass art classes at studio, gradually learning different arts such as stained glass and fused glass, among others. The owner of the studio offered Pam a job as a teacher... then as a manager... then she and her husband bought the studio and made it their own. They gutted it and reformed it as a glass art school where they teach classes in the various arts. McDougal dedicated himself to this new endeavor. "I traveled the United States learning from the best glass artists so we could incorporate the same techniques, but I realized none of their stuff was as good as what my wife was teaching." Most of their students are repeat students – **Roses Glassworks** boasts a retention rate of 98% while the national average sits at 4%. While they've been impacted by the pandemic, they've still had fun making their art while teaching smaller classes.



When he is not helping his wife run Roses Glassworks, McDougal runs his second career as jolly old St. Nicholas. He is none other than Santa Claus himself! As his hair started going white, McDougal was approached by a photographer who asked him to participate in a photo shoot. “They asked for references and I started naming the reindeer, which got me the job. I had a lot of fun, and I was known as the singing, dancing Santa Claus. I was one of the most sought-after Santas after my first year,” McDougal laughed.

After the first year, McDougal and his wife decided to do charity work with Mitch as Santa. They’ve participated in corporate events, Make-A-Wish Foundation wishes, and visiting kids and seniors in hospitals. Unfortunately, McDougal experienced a stroke that halted his Santa work for half a year, but he rallied and fought hard to get back to being Santa. Being Santa isn’t just a short time gig, though. McDougal works consistently through the year, talking to kids who recognize Santa and supporting disaster relief. He says, “Kids that go through a disaster will open up to Santa more than they will police officers or counselors, so I’ll make visits all through the year.” McDougal is frequently recognized in public by small children and goes out of his way to talk to them. On special occasions, McDougall will even break out Santa's kilt which is in the McDougall tartan.

While the bulk of his work starts in early November, McDougal is adamant that Santa is more than showing up at a mall. “Christmas is not just three days in December and it doesn’t start the day after Thanksgiving. It’s a spirit and in the heart.”

So make sure you don't cry, and you don't pout, and be good for goodness sake!



## Sheriffmuir Anniversary

November 13th marks the 306th anniversary of the Battle of Sheriffmuir. The MacDougall connection to this event is that in late September 1715, our 22nd Chief John of Dunollie (Iain Ciar) (1695 – d. 1737) led a group of clan volunteers to join the Rising of 1715 in support of the Stewart “Old Pretender”, the father of Bonnie Prince Charlie. On 13 November 1715 he and his younger brother Duncan and approximately fifty his clansmen volunteers were on the Jacobite right wing at the Battle of Sheriffmuir. Iain Ciar was wounded through the thigh by a musket ball. During his absence at war, his wife Mary bravely defended Dunollie under the command of his friend Livingstone and a dozen men. By 17 February 1716, he was writing to his wife Mary that the Rising had failed and that he and many others were fleeing to exile. He advised her to give up her defence of Dunollie and surrender to Campbell of Stonefield. After the failure of this rising, Iain Ciar was in exile for eleven years in France, Ireland, and at times in hiding in Scotland. During his exile, he forfeited his estate and Dunollie castle was garrisoned with government troops.

You can learn more of the details, in Iain Ciar’s own correspondence, by picking up a copy of *Highland Postbag*. For those wishing to dig even deeper, there are some wonderful resources over at Scotland's National Archives. These links include photos of original documents from the period, along with transcriptions and even audio that is recorded in lovely Scottish voices.

### **Jacobite Account of Battle**

**The Earl of Mar’s Letter Reporting the Battle**

**The Duke of Argyll’s Report on the Battle**

**The Duke of Argyll’s More Detailed Report**

**Account of James Sandilands, Lord Torphichen**



It's that time of year to come out and show your MacDougall/MacDowall pride. Clan MacDougall Society of North America invites you to participate in the 50th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia on December 4th. The Christmas Walk is a great time to get caught up on clan business or just say HI! This is also a great opportunity to show your kids your Scottish pride by walking with them in the parade. After the walk, we have a great place chosen for lunch where we can meet and kick back while listening to our wonderful guest speaker, kiltmaker Patti Smith. Walkers and non-walkers are welcome. Click the document image for full details. We hope to see you there!



Clan MacDougall Society  
Virginia/Mid-Atlantic Region



**SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK SATURDAY,  
DECEMBER 4, 2021 ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**



Nollaig chridheil agus Bliadhna mhath dhuibh  
Season's Greetings to Mid-Atlantic Region Members & Friends

It's that time of year to come out and show your MacDougall/MacDowall pride. Clan MacDougall Society of North America invites you to participate in the 50th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk in Old Town Alexandria. The Christmas walk is a great time to get caught up on clan business and just say HI! This is also a great opportunity to show your kids your Scottish pride by walking in the parade. After the walk we have a great place chosen for lunch where we can meet and kick back for a while. Walkers and non-walkers are welcome. There is a special pre fix menu from which you can make a selection. Please **RSVP for the lunch** to the McHoul's (Bill and Cathy) [mchoul2000@yahoo.com](mailto:mchoul2000@yahoo.com) and myself at [yacmsna@gmail.com](mailto:yacmsna@gmail.com). That way we can get a head count and make reservations. **NOTE: PLEASE RSVP no later than Tuesday, 30 November 2021 for us to meet the reservation deadline.** Don't forget: **WEAR YOUR TARTAN**

The Scottish Christmas Walk celebrates Scottish heritage and ushers in the holiday season. The walk has traditionally featured around one hundred forty parade units including Scottish clans and societies, re-enactors, pipes & drums, canines, seasonal crafters, and the warm atmosphere, if not weather, of Old Town Alexandria during the Holiday Season.

|           |                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date:     | Saturday, December 4, 2021                                                                                                                                             |
| Time:     | 10:30 a.m. Clan gathers.<br>Wilkes and South Saint Asaph Streets at Lyles Crouch Elementary School.<br>Gather around the MacDougall Banner<br>11:00 a.m. Parade begins |
| Position: | Check the information table at St Asaph & Wilkes St.                                                                                                                   |

**LUNCHEON**

After the walk, please join us for a Clan MacDougall Society gathering at:

The Back Room of the historic Gadsby's Tavern, address is **138 North Royal Street Alexandria, VA 22314** for lunch, and a discussion of clan matters – past, present, and future – and of Scottish history and culture.

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## An Important Announcement!

### The Clan MacDougall Society of North America will hold a virtual **Annual General Meeting** on November 13, 2021

The brief meeting will begin at 4pm Eastern via GoToMeeting.  
You can attend by simply clicking the link below and entering the Access Code.  
**<https://www.gotomeet.me/KJohnJones/2021-annual-general-meeting>**  
**Access Code: 723-973-309**

If you would prefer to connect with your telephone, use these numbers:

United States: **+1 (646) 749-3129**

Canada: **+1 (647) 497-9391**

United Kingdom: **+44 330 221 0088**

A time of Q&A, general fellowship, and conversation will follow.

## New Members

**Victoria Howell**  
Marietta, GA

**Terry E. Lynch**  
Daly City, CA

## The News from Massachusetts By Anne Carine



### Welcome a beautiful wee bairn!

I am proud to announce the birth of my precious granddaughter, Autumn Anne born on October 29, 2021. She weighed 5.75 lbs and was 18" long. She is a joy to my son, Adam, and his fiancée Kasey, big sister Ava, and big brother Adam.

...and the last 2021 Highland Games report.



On October 12, 2021, my son Aaron and I were pleased to host the Clan MacDougall tent at the Scotland, Connecticut Highland Games. It was a lovely country venue to have many interesting conversations with folks!



Many children stopped by for stamps and coloring books and I witnessed my first bonnie knee competition! Blessings to all!

## Contact Us

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**Website**

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If you read our article featuring Mitch McDougal, you'll recall he and his wife own **Roses Glassworks**, a glass art studio. Check out some of their creations!

## Scholar Update - Barry Marler



As reported in our annual membership mailing, CMSNA has awarded over \$50,000 in scholarships to help young people study Scottish traditions. Our recipients are typically high achievers. The very first was Barry Marler in 1998. His scholarship enabled him to learn the Highland snare drum, and later perform in the Southern and Eastern U.S. Pipe Band Associations, and with three different bands. Barry has gone on to become a Captain in the U.S. Air Force, currently participating in a special program to pursue a master's degree in finance—while volunteering as current CMSNA treasurer.

## Scholar Update - Audrey Trawick

I just wanted to check in and say hello and share some of the materials I am currently working on memorizing for my Scottish Nationals exam.

My apologies as it's been a while since I've checked in. I had a foot injury which landed me in a boot for a few weeks which had me buried in my studies as a result of not being able to dance. However, now that it's been rested and appears to be back to normal, I was excited to put together a short update on my studies and hope you will all enjoy my latest **video** update.

Thank you all so much for your continued support,  
Audrey Trawick

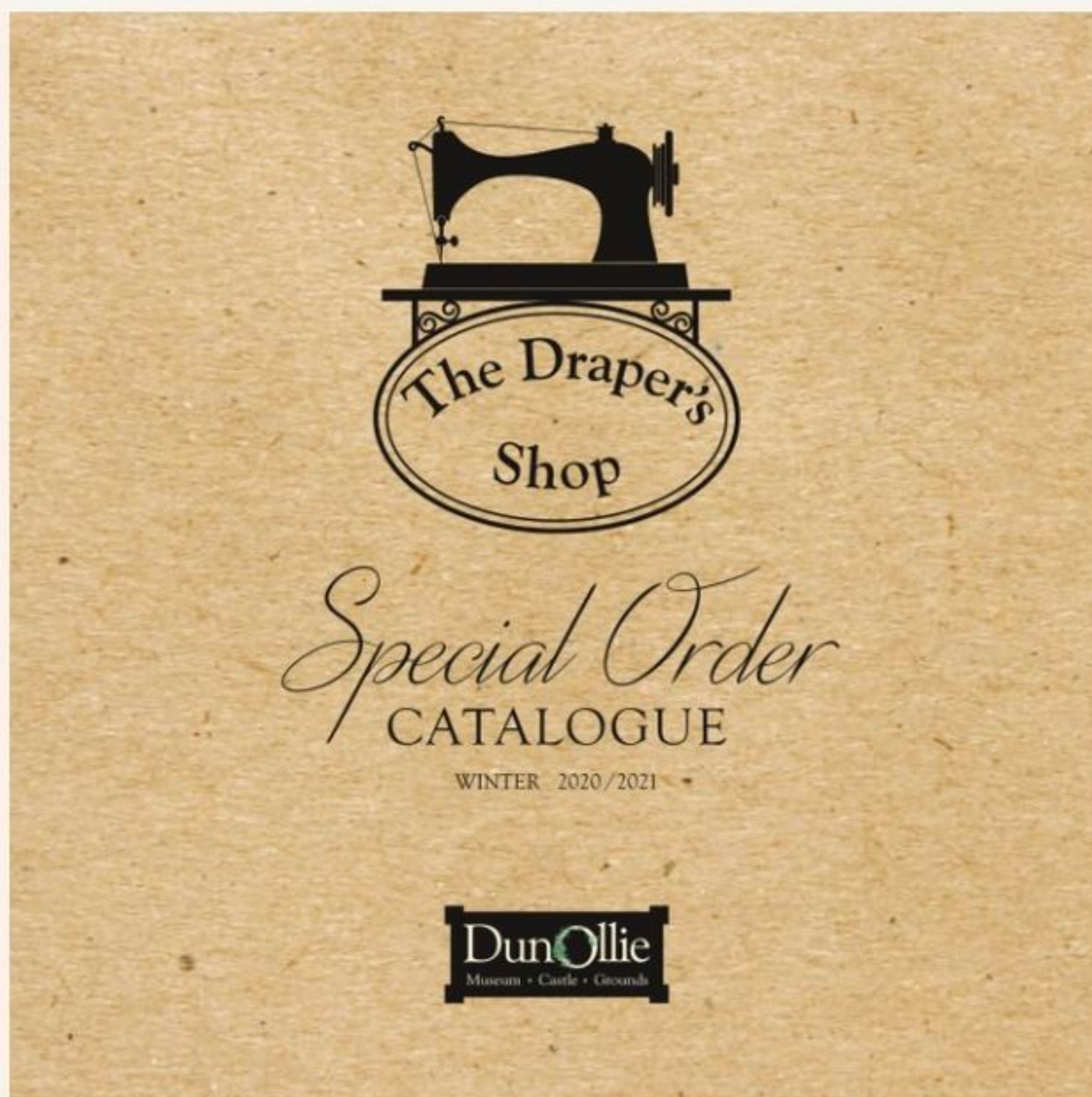
P.S. Happy Halloween! I have attached a photo of my Celtic Halloween costume for this year.



## NEW from the Draper's Shop

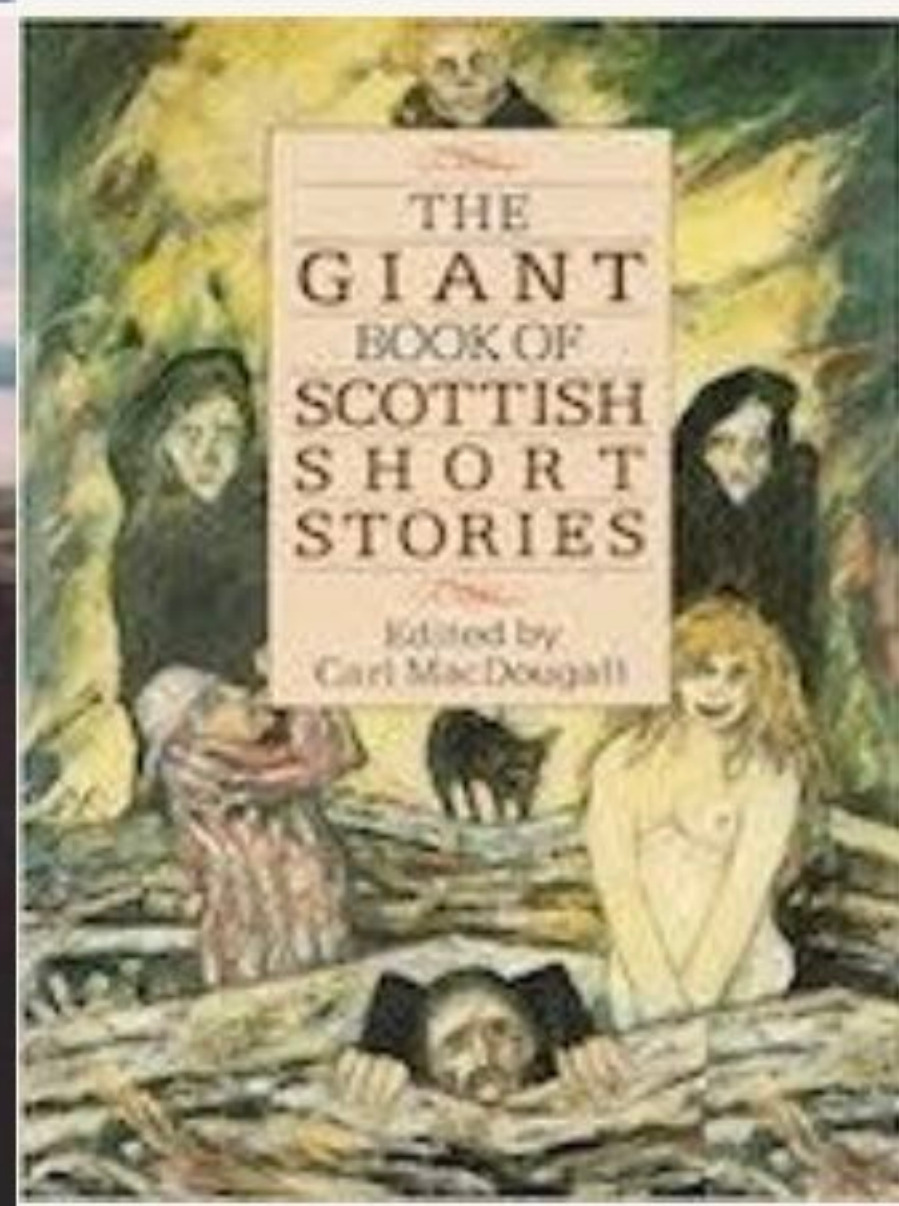
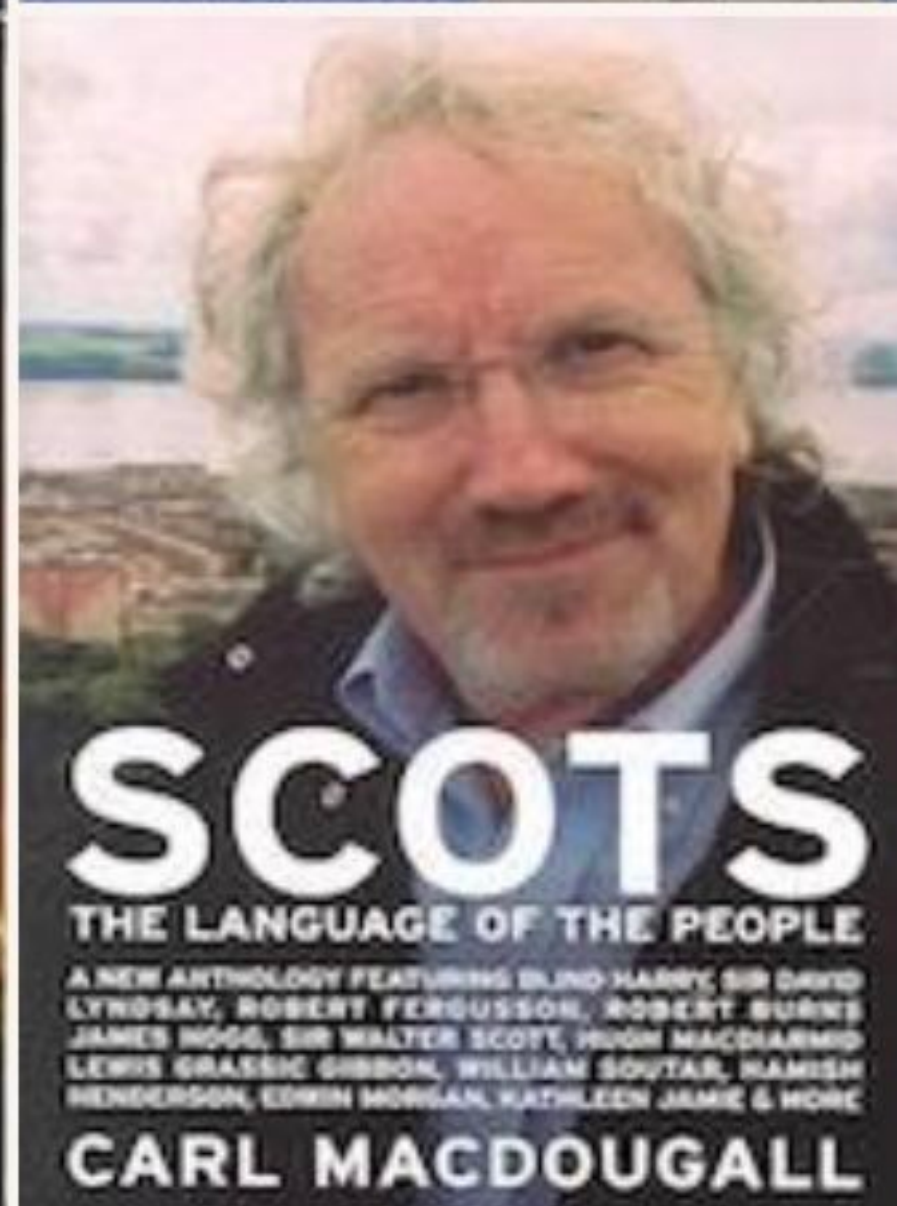
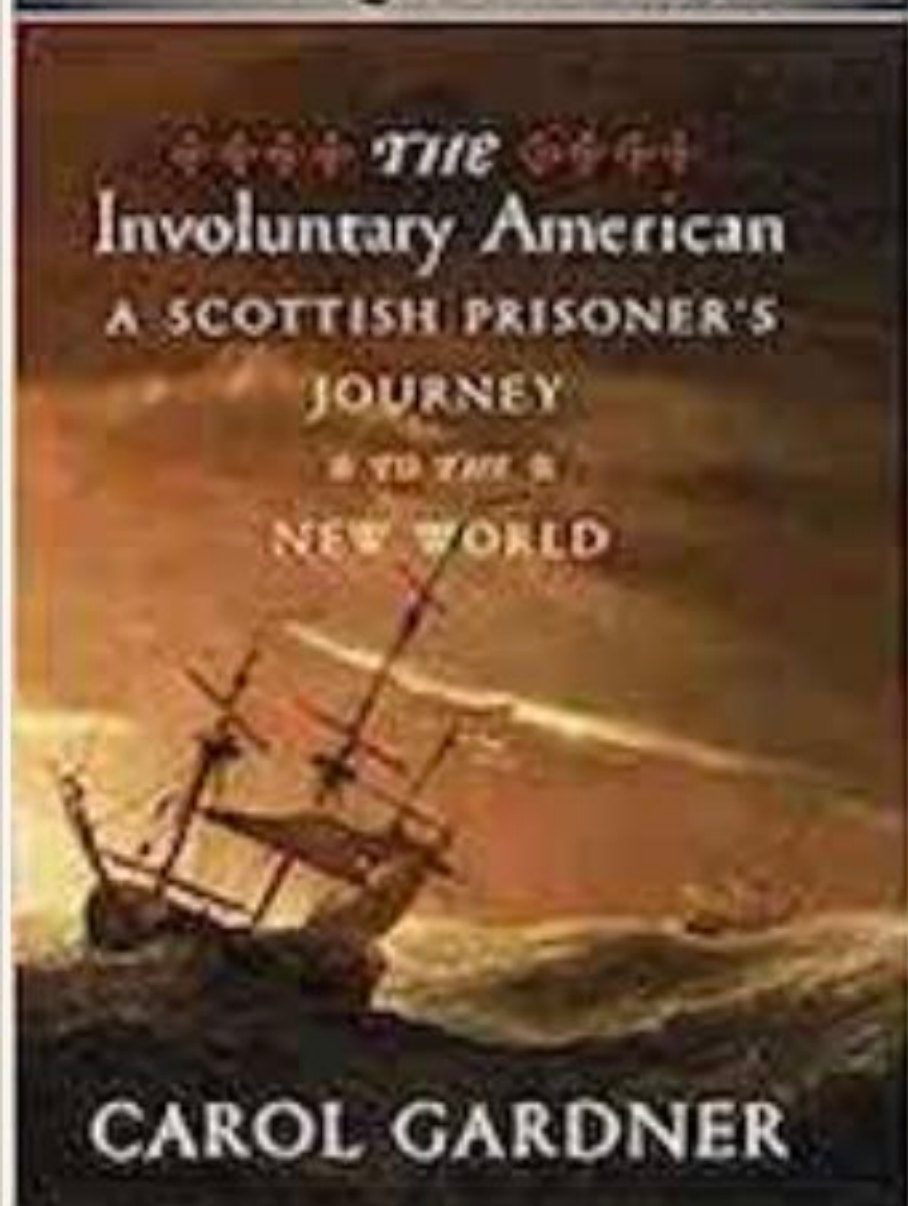
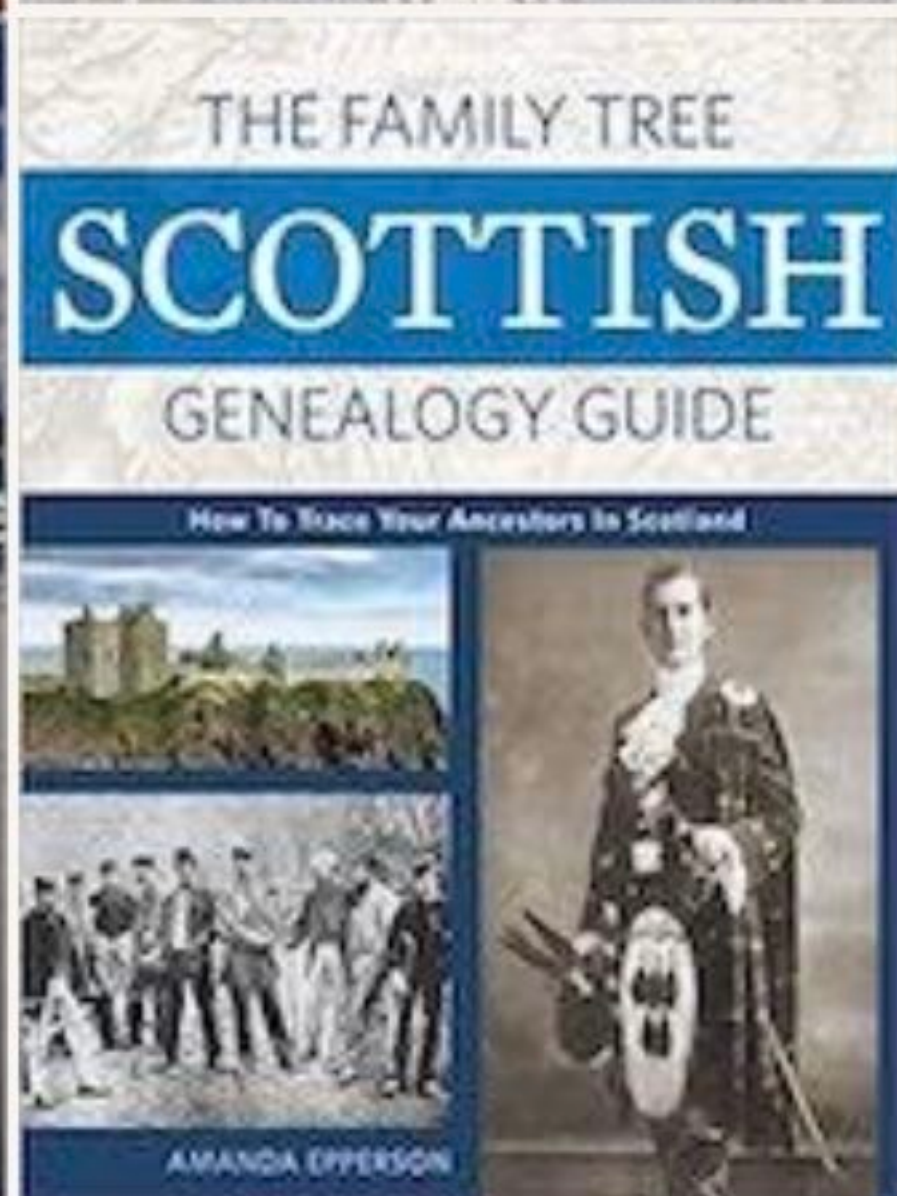
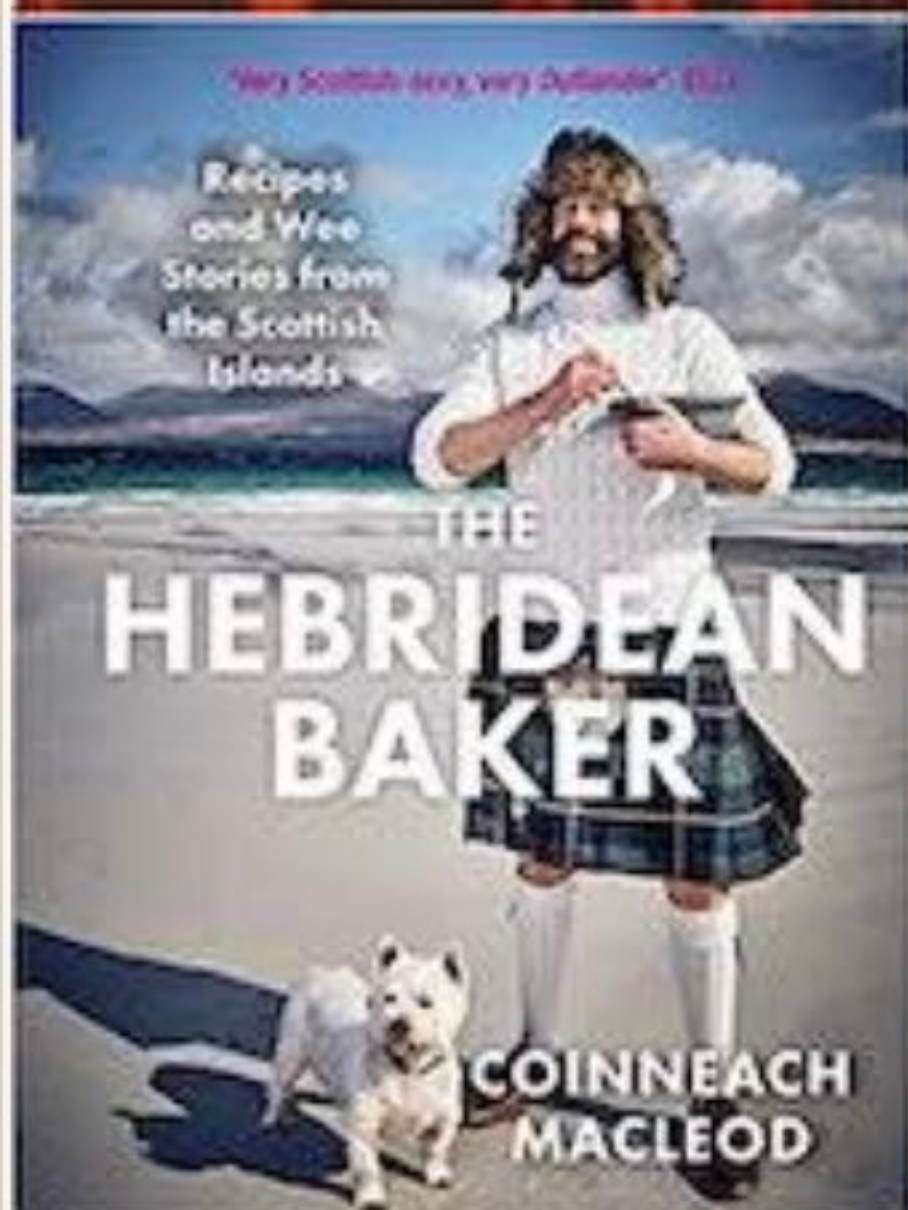
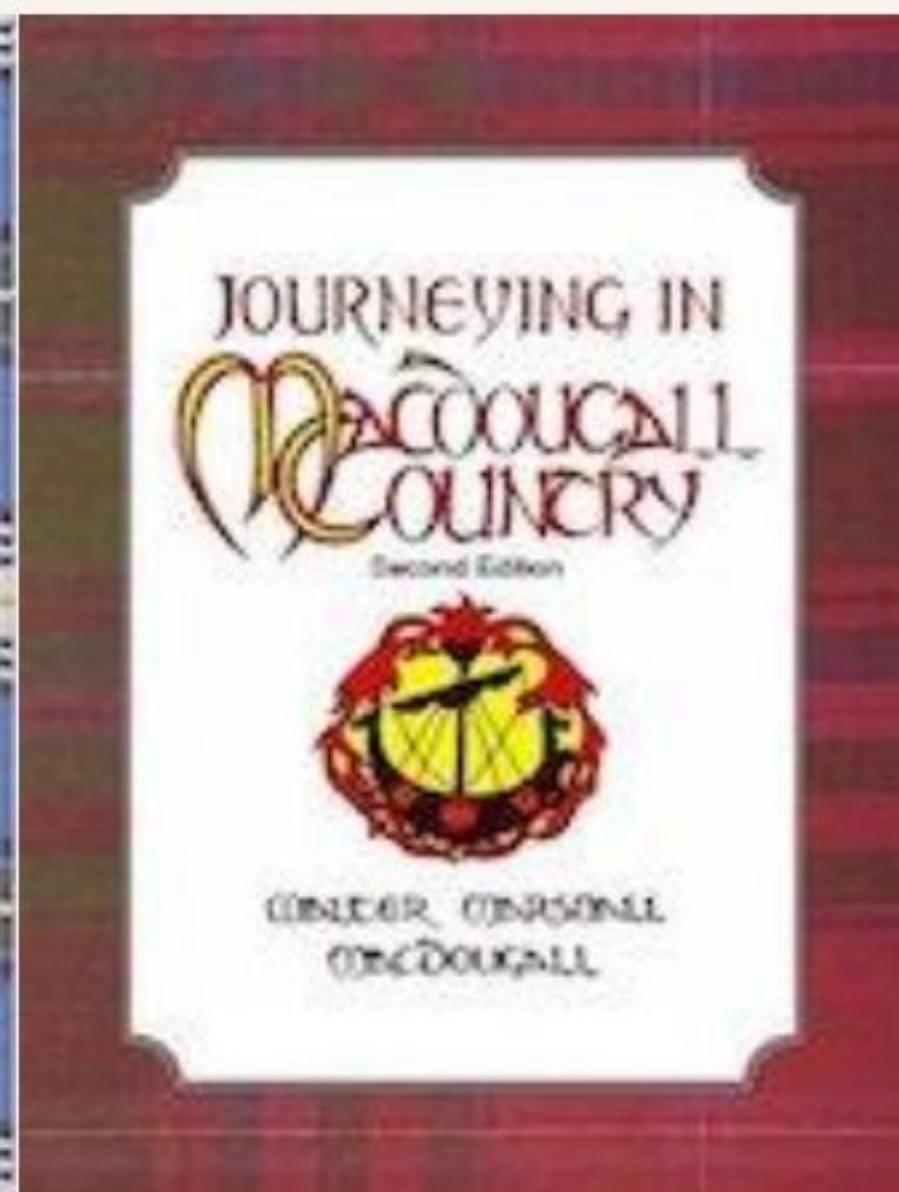
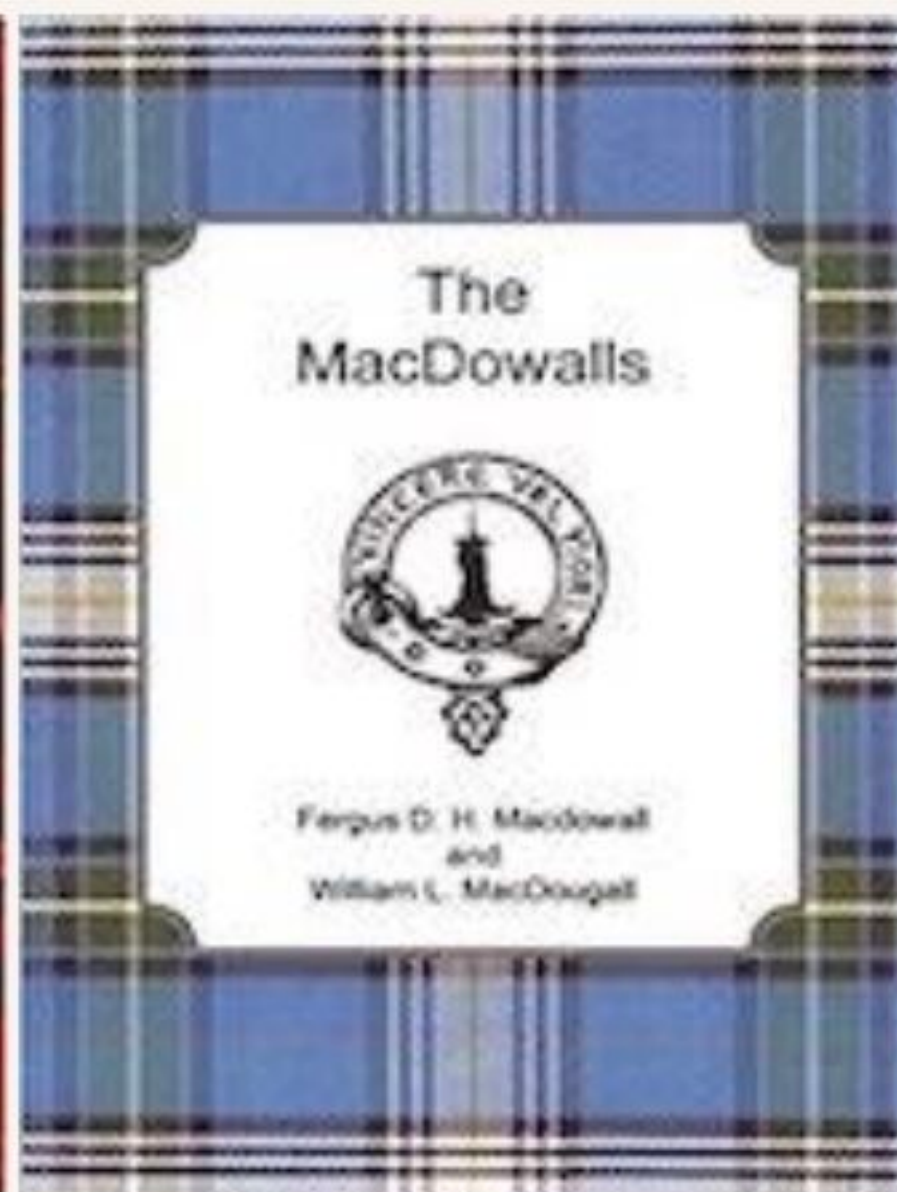
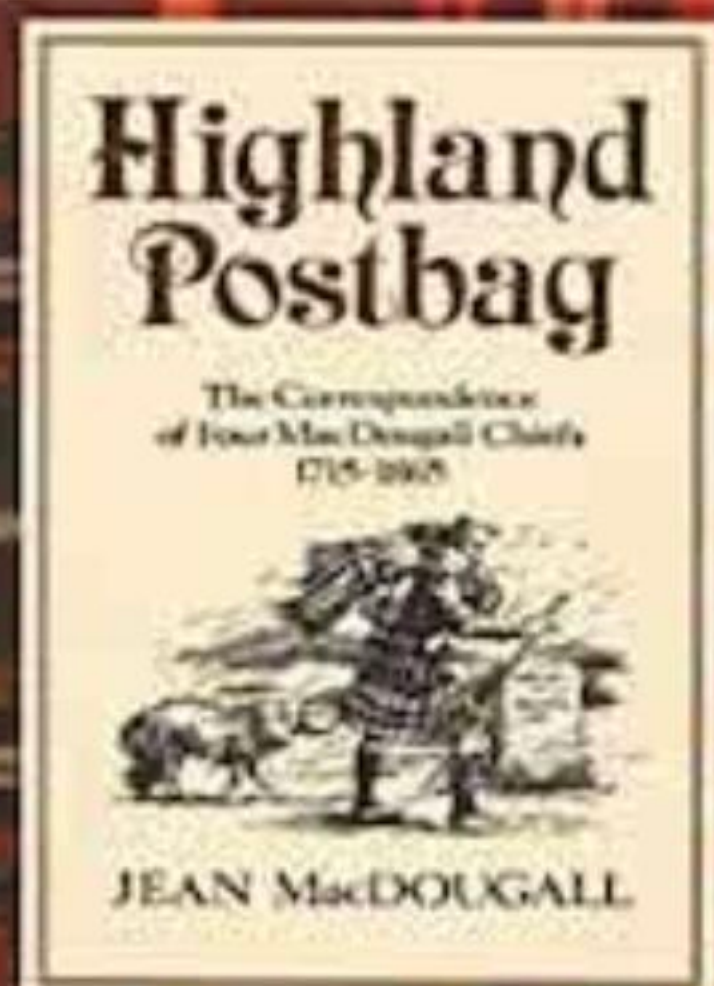
The Draper's Shop at Dunollie Museum, Castle, and Grounds is the best place to find unique items for the kith and kin on your list, bringing the pride of their heritage home.

New this year is the first edition of The Draper's Shop Special Order Catalogue to make your browsing even easier. Download your copy by clicking the cover image. Then head into **The Draper's Shop** to easily place your order.





AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support Society programs every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as regular Amazon, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the Clan MacDougall Society of North America. Below are some suggested items you may wish to add to your collection.



## **Newsletter Submissions**

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

**Lindsay Davis, Editor**

**[newseditor@macdougall.org](mailto:newseditor@macdougall.org)**

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### **Please Do Not Forward**

This Newsletter is intended for members of the Clan MacDougall Society of North America.

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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