



The Raven

Monthly Newsletter of the
Clan MacDougall Society of North America



From the President



Mo dheagh chairdean!

(Welcome my friends!)

October has arrived and hopefully you are enjoying some beautiful autumn weather. I am certainly looking forward to warm drinks, fuzzy sweaters, and cozy, colorful walks through the autumn wonderland of the woods. With October also comes our fall campaign fundraiser and membership renewal; costumes, firepits, bonfires, gatherings and more. Never standing still, here is what the Society has in store for fall:

- I will be hosting the Oklahoma Highland Games clan tent for MacDougall in Choctaw Oklahoma from October 11th through the 13th, 2024. Stop by and say hello! There are many other games happening in October. Be sure to check out the Games and Events

Calendar also here in the Raven to see where else you can visit us in person.

- Tyler Texas hosts the Tyler Scottish Festival
- (November) Our annual Fall Fundraising Campaign. Be on the lookout for your packet in the mail. **You make ALL the difference.**
- (November) Salado Scottish Gather of the Clans and Highland Games in Salado, TX
- (December) **Alexandria Christmas Walk** takes place December 7th, 2024. Walk with Clan MacDougall! We Need YOU!

And of course, how can we forget Samhain! For our November issue, I would love to see the “guises” our members decided on for this year’s Samhain celebrations all over North America and the Globe! If you have any photos you want to share, send them to us!

MacDougall Castle Series: Dunstaffnage Castle



Dunstaffnage Castle in Oban Scotland

A MacDougall Stronghold of Old.

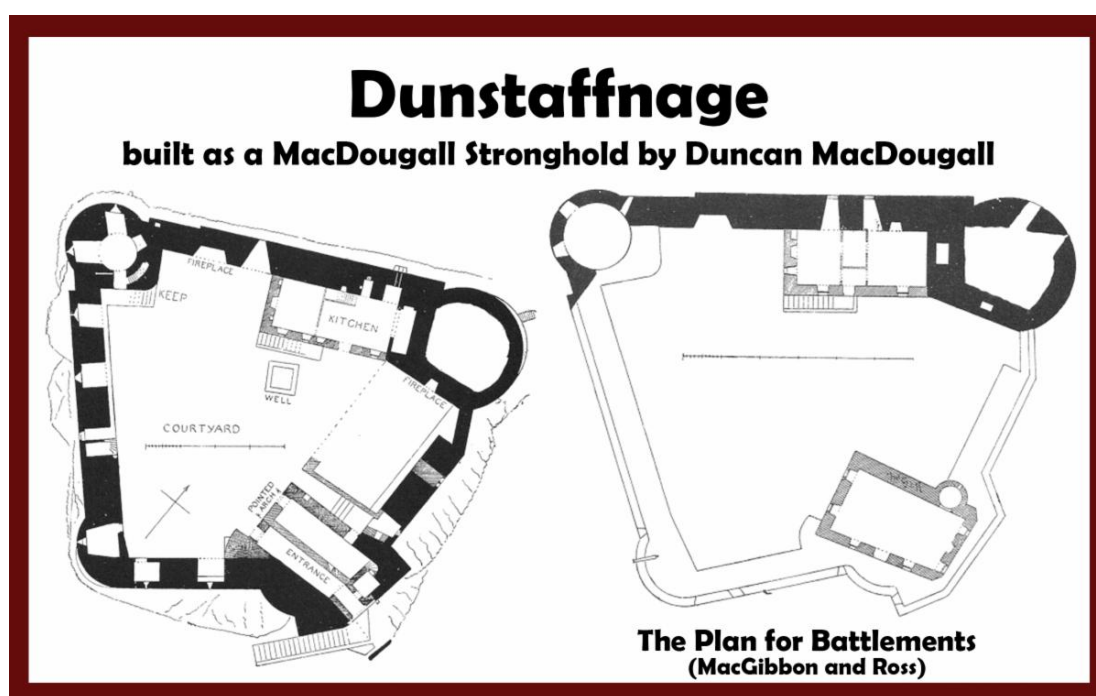
If you have not ever visited Scotland, let me help you imagine a place of wonder, excitement, history, and heritage. This castle was once a MacDougall Stronghold, built to defend the heart of Scotland. It stands on an outcropping above the Firth of Lorn 3 miles north of Oban in Argyll and Bute in the western part of Scotland. What an awe-inspiring site to behold.

It is an irregular quadrangle, largely determined by the contours of the rock on which it was built. With a daunting curtain wall of stone built to defend the MacDougall territory, it is at the entrance to Loch Etive and surrounded on three sides by the sea. Originally, it had three towers tucked into the structure of the stone curtain wall. They weren't just projecting from the wall as was usual for this time period—but built INTO the wall. Two of these towers remain today. The third was converted. In the early 1500s, a gateway was added which largely obscured the eastern tower. Then the upper part of the gateway was reconstructed and the floor subdivided. The original great hall stood on the inner face of the north-east wall at floor level and was adjacent to the principal north tower. The windows can still be traced in the east curtain wall. The wall was 60 feet high in some places and contains a parapet with a wall walk. This is still accessible in part today when you tour the Castle. Can you picture it yet?

Before Dunstaffnage Castle was built, this site is believed to have been a stronghold of the Kings of Dalriada in the 600s. The castle as you would see it today, was built in the second quarter of the 13th century. By whom you ask. Duncan MacDougall Lord of Lorn, grandson of Somerled. MacDougalls were appointed by King Hakon IV of Norway. Duncan's son, Ewan, was believed to be the one that built the towers into the curtain wall as a fortification. The castle has residential and service buildings behind its great wall. It has 26 steep historic stone steps to the entrance of the castle as you approach. It takes another 28 steps

up a spiral stone staircase to reach the upper levels. The battlements (*are you seeing this?*) are accessed by a spiral stone staircase of 12 steps.

Ardchattan Priory is also located just 6 miles east of Dunstaffnage founded by Dubhghall (Dougall). Dunstaffnage also has a chapel of its own and has a 50m rough earth path, boggy and steep in places, which you must traverse to enter.



An impressive site in any age or era, Dunstaffnage is open for touring. IF you attended the International gathering, you had a chance to take a tour of this ancient and magnificent stone stronghold. Dunstaffnage, as a stronghold, was always besieged and attacked. It saw much action throughout history. From Dalriada, to the King of Scots to the Wars of Independence (in 1296 through 1356), attacked by Alexander II, seized from the MacDougalls in 1308 by Robert the Bruce, Given to the Clan MacArthur until 1470—then passed to 1st Earl of Argyll, Colin Campbell in 1502... burned in may of 1685, part of the Jacobite rising in 1746 and used as a garrison by government forces.

Did we mention it was a temporary prison for Flora MacDonald in 1746 for assisting Bonnie Prince Charlie? Oh, and it's haunted—by a heavy footed ghost who stomps around on "the wooden floors"—and by a ghost in a green dress named the "Elle-maid of Dunstaffnage"! Her ghostly appearance apparently proports good and bad events to come. When she smiles and appears happy, good things tend to happen. The opposite is said to be true when she appears while weeping or upset.

So, are you interested yet? There's plenty more to read as far as history goes. I can't give away all the bits and pieces of history. Although I can tell you: This castle is still in the hands of the Campbells of Inverary as the hereditary Captains of Dunstaffnage. Restoration work was undertaken in 1903 but was delayed by World War I. Total restoration was never completed. In 1958 care of the castle and chapel were given to state care and today it is a Historic Scotland property with the hereditary Captain still in residence for 3 days out of the year. I hope this will encourage you to read more about Dunstaffnage and other MacDougall strongholds, for there

were many! Don't forget our current seat, Dunollie Castle, Museum and grounds.

Have fun! Be curious! Read more!

*If this verbally painted picture of Dunstaffnage has been educational or enjoyable for you, please let us know by sending your thoughts and opinions to: **newseditor@macdougall.org** so we can offer you MORE of what you want to know about. If there are other topics you're interested in, let us know that too! Thanks for reading!*

Games Recap:

Columbus Scottish Festival, Columbus Indiana

Did you visit our team in Columbus, Indiana?

Ben and Cathy Dunham had a wonderful time in September with all of you who visited. If you didn't get a chance to visit, drop in on **Facebook** and see their lovely photos from the weekend! For those of you who did visit, please tell our team in Columbus how they did; how your visit was; what you loved most!

Covenanter Scottish Festival, Quarryville, Pennsylvania

John and Lynn Cowan were at the Festival in Quarryville, PA this year in September. We enjoy hearing from our members and visitors regarding your visits to our clan tents at ALL of our Games! It gives us a sense of joy and accomplishment knowing you appreciate what we do. Remember, ALL of our "Staff Members" are **VOLUNTEERS** who host the clan tents to fulfill our Society's Purposes.

Loon Mountain Highland Games, New Hampshire

The New Hampshire Highland Games at Loon Mountain were also a success this year! Anne Carine has posted many photos in **our facebook group** illustrating what a lovely time the team had at Loon Mountain. Again, we ask that you let our volunteers know how they did at our clan tents! Send in your comments to our Newsletter Editors, Kyle Jones and Misha Lowther at newseditor@macdougall.org.

Send in an experience with Photos to newseditor@macdougall.org.

SIXTY YEARS!



We have ANOTHER Celebration COMING SOON!

The Founding of CMSNA:

Our organization began in 1965 in Linville, Avery County, North Carolina. Happenstance brought a young girl into Eseeola Lodge with Family for Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in 1964. She spotted another gentleman wearing the same kilt as her family. I am speaking of Patty Leonard. The gentlemen who met that day got together with our then chief, Colleen MacDougall of MacDougall and Dunollie. And here we are 60 years later.

Read MORE of our Organization's History!

If you would like to read more of this story, The Tartan and The Raven have articles in the archives we keep online in the Members Only section of our website. I encourage you to go treasure hunting for lost gems or gems never before seen with your own eyes.

Come and Celebrate with Us!

It's only October and we have much planning to do for this event to take place in July 2025. Naturally we want YOU to be a part of the celebration. Make your plans EARLY to attend the Anniversary celebration and you might even be encouraged to visit Grandfather Mountain Highland Games! Both are Very Worth it!

About "Scotland's People" Center and Website:

"**Scotland's People**" is a center located in Edinburgh. For £15, you can reserve a seat for the day and search as many genealogical records as you can access. It does cost extra to print documents. This helps those who are visiting Edinburgh, Scotland.

*National Records of Scotland
HM General Register House
2 Princes Street
Edinburgh
EH1 3YY*

IF you are NOT visiting Scotland, you can still **use Scotland's People** and the records they have available. The ability to create an online account does exist. Have fun with your Scottish Genealogy searches!



COSTUME CONTEST!

Send in your photos with name, email address, and City/State.

The top THREE costumes will be posted in the Raven!

NEWSEditor@MACDOUGALL.ORG



COSTUME CONTEST! 2024

Send in your photos with name, email address, and City/State.
The top THREE costumes will be posted in the Raven!

DISCLAIMERS:

1. NO inappropriate content.
All content must be suitable for children.
2. Sending in a photo means YOU have the right (legally) to publish that photo and to give permission for us to use sent photo.
3. Sending a photo is automatic permission given to CMSNA (Clan MacDougall Society of North America or "our Society") to post afore mentioned photo in the Raven
4. And (along with the requirements in #3, allow us to keep photos in the Archives to use another time for publication purposes in our newsletters.



Games & Events Calendar

October 12 - **Indianapolis Scottish Highland Festival** - Indianapolis, IN USA

October 12 - **Seaside Highland Games** - Ventura, CA USA

October 11th - 13th - **Oklahoma Highland Gathering** - Choctaw, OK USA

October 13 only - **Scotland Connecticut Highland Games** - Scotland, Connecticut USA

October 19th - 20th - **Stone Mountain Highland Games** - Stone Mountain, GA USA

Volunteers: Don't forget to send in photos and festival stories for our readers!

Readers: If you visit a festival, let us know how we did and what you loved!

Kenneth Welty
Columbia, MO

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We hope you will enjoy the latest issue, courtesy of our friends at The Scottish Banner.



Check out our
Online Store!



QUEENSBORO

There's much more offered at
the online store!
Let's go Shopping!



Port Authority Embroidered Women's
Heathered Silk Touch Performance Polo
Product: A388-468-6653 - Style: 5177



Port Authority Embroidered Men's
Heathered Silk Touch Performance Polo
Product: A262-419-1465 - Style: 5178



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:
Co-Editors: Kyle Jones & Misha Lowther
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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