

VINCERE VEL MORI

CLAN MACDOWALL NEWSLETTER

Issue 1, 2013 Vincere Vel Mori Victory or Death



HAPPY NEW YEAR CLANSMEN !

For her fine newsletterhead the editor Mrs. CHARLOTTE MCDOWELL BAKER appropriately adopted the ancient rallying "Cri de Guerre" of Macdowall of Garthland, "VINCERE Vel MORI" (Conquer Until Death), overlaying our MacDowall tartan. We also have an 18th century answering motto of Macdowall (McDowall) of Castlesemple, "FORTIS In ARDUIS" (Strength in Hardship) which seems more appropriate today!

I now report a mixture of people and events that made Clan life interesting for me in 2012.

GATHERINGS

MacDowalls have participated in tents and parades at Highland Games often as members or guests of THE CLAN MACDOUGALL SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA ("CMSNA") since its inception in 1965, and by me in particular since my election as an Honorary President. Occasionally I arrange for a tent or canopy for MacDowalls at gatherings in Canada, or with Lowland Families (clans) in Scotland; or often jointly with MacDougalls as we did when the Clan MacDougall Society in Great Britain joined us at the INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF THE CLANS that was put on by the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs (see below)in Edinburgh in 2009.

On May 19-20, 2012, THE 149th VICTORIA HIGHLAND GAMES AND CELTIC FESTIVAL were held in Victoria on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, the home (1854-) of three generations of my family on both sides down to me. One of the first annual games of the year in Canada, they promote the highest standards of competition now in highland dancing, piping in classes 1 to 4, drumming and drum-majoring, and in athletics with World and International heavy events. Scottish culture appears also with clan tents and vendors, Celtic song and dance, a whisky tasting school , and, shepherding trials including duck herding; etc. ELLIOTT,FERGUS, DOUGAL, GARNETT Macdowall helped set up the canopy and then led the Games-opening march of the clans with our claymore (two-handed broadsword) and banners. This year one new clansman (see below) registered and dozens of enquiries on Scottish names and places of origin were discussed.



On Sept. 21-23, 2012, my wife "Sandy" (Alexandra) Macdowall of Garthland and her daughter "Alex" Stevens attended THE 37th NEW HAMPSHIRE HIGHLAND GAMES AND FESTIVAL at Loon Mountain, as guests of the Games' piping coordinators, and they enjoyed meeting clansmen (see below). In Victoria at the same time (Oct. 19-21), the conclusion of the 100th Anniversary celebrations of our fathers' CANADIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT "Princess Mary's" was to be marked with a visit by the Colonel-in-Chief, HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS ALEXANDRA. I attended the Services in the Cathedral and Cenotaph followed by the Trooping of the Colour and the Parade to City Hall for the Freedom of the City.

For the purpose of planning it is important to add here that on Sept. 9, 2013, a Service will be held in the limited space of St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh, to commemorate and celebrate the 500th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF FLODDEN in 1513, where our leading ancestors, UCHTRED and son THOMAS, were killed with KING JAMES IV of Scotland. The battle is to be observed also at Flodden Field on the Borders. Also, the next INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF THE CLANS is being planned by the City of Stirling for July 11-13, 2014, following the National Trust's June 28-30 Commemoration of THE 700th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN in which our DOUGAL MACDOWALL, younger of Gairachloyne, was killed. That site is a Memorial Park where highland games are not permitted. There may be a one-day clan convention at Stirling University between June 27 and July 2, 2014, under The Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs (see below).

CLANSMEN

MICHAEL G. McDOWALL with the education, wit and ability, as well as the time as an historical architect, had written and publish in 1988 "A Copper Inheritance - A History of the Kindred of McDowall of Scotland". He recently traced from 1842 the steps of his great great uncle JOHN McDOWALL who emigrated to Ontario, Canada, leaving a son ANDREW. Michael's grandfather was during WW2 the Provost (chief magistrate) of Stranraer, the nearest town to Garthland Tower (castle) in Galloway. Michael also referred to another ANDREW McDOWALL of the Glasgow Air Squadron, one of the first distinguished fighter pilots in the Battle of Britain.

At the Victoria Highland Games on May 19 (see above) another Lowlander, Prof. emeritus J-P. CHRISTOPHER JACKSON joined Clan MacDowall. Out of 1553 people, whom he has compiled in his matrilineal Jackson/Eagan family tree, he brilliantly remembered that his 5xgreat-grandmother was RACHEL CATHEY McDOWELL EAGAN (1727-1780) daughter of CHARLES and RACHEL CATHEY McDOWELL of Virginia and the Carolinas (see "The MacDowalls", p.78) who separately emigrated from Ulster, Ireland, in the early 1700's.

In late June, 2012, the popular motion picture actress ANDIE McDOWELL (Rose Anderson McDowell), a South Carolina native now of North Carolina and California, came to Victoria to star in the filming of "Cedar Cove" near my former home in "The Uplands" of Oak Bay. Upon her arrival I had her presented with a copy of "The MacDowalls" which cites her on pages 127-128. That book may have been filed with fan-mail because Andie is especially busy with her own family news (see Twitter: @andiemacdowell3).

"At the New Hampshire Games' dinner on Sept. 21 (see above) Sandy surprised SHEILA and ED McDOWELL who were there in full MacDowall tartan dress. Sheila is the Regional Commissioner and on the Board of the Clan MacDougall Society of North America, and she is a very active photographer of their Clan Gatherings here and in Scotland."

Much news continues to come from our brilliant clansman VITALIY NEGODA in Krasnodar, Russia (see "The MacDowalls", p. 110-114). He is a lawyer and a champion of all Celtic Martial Arts with his own "School of Gaelic Martial Arts". Vitaliy speaks, writes and instructs in the Gaelic and welcomes members to "Clann MhicDhughail" in Krasnodar where he lives with his mother MARIA, a descendant of an Irish McDowell, his sister ANNA and her handsome son ALASDAIR plus border collie BRAN. Vitaliy is also a piper, an historian, a devout Christian, an archeologist, and a poet and composer who is contributing articles to the MacDowall Newsletter.

HENNING Von WAHL, a successful chemical engineer, baronial gentleman and genealogist (see "The MacDowalls", p.43-51), arranged and hosted a family gathering of Von WAHLs and DUVALLs in the city of Stralsund on the North Sea-coast in NE Germany, to re-open his renovated Duvalls' Chapel in the Cathedral of St. Nikolai, followed by a personally guided tour of the city. NICHOLAI, the son of HENNING and BETTINA, excelled in school and in marksmanship with his father, then he travelled and worked on safari in Namibia before entering Gottingen University in September,2012, to pursue a career in biology.

SCOTTISH COUNCILS

Clan MacDowall , was long a member of the VICTORIA JOINT SCOTTISH COUNCIL. The Council met monthly and distributed by mail and e-mail a four page monthly newsletter, "Schedule of Scottish Events", on the activities of all 20 or so member Scottish Societies in Victoria, for coordination. They also put on combined annual events including the Tartan Ball, Robert Burns' Day celebrations, Tartan Day exhibits, and others. Because the final executive of the elected Council with myself as Past Chair was in place for more than ten years, without volunteers for replacement, they reluctantly voted to disband in December, 2012, as a casualty of the times.

Garthland Estate borders Lochwinnoch in Renfrewshire, Scotland. The COUNCIL OF LOCHWINNOCH is my hope to mediate a concern about the fate of the Macdowall Building which was erected by my great-grandfather HENRY MACDOWALL of Garthland and of Castlesempie in 1857. That cottage's use has evolved from a "Wee School" into the town library and meeting place under the present management of the RENFREWSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, who under austerity now wish to sell it. The local residents and I are objecting.

As Chief of Clan MacDowall I am a long time member of THE STANDING COUNCIL OF SCOTTISH CHIEFS who meet annually in Edinburgh. We make suggestions affecting all Clans, and if we can get to the AGM we vote on decisions. The current Convenor of the Council, SIR MALCOLM MACGREGOR OF MACGREGOR and a party of other Chiefs were invited to the STONE MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES and Seminar, in Georgia, U.S.A., on Oct. 19-21, 2012. Their intention was to discuss the misuse of the terms chief and chieftain and the wearing of eagles' feathers. There is a strict protocol in Scotland, and I prefer a limited reconciliation with North American practices.

With Best Wishes from myself and family

Yours Aye!

Fergus

Scottish Martial Arts

Part 3: The Modern Revival of Scottish Martial Arts

By Shannon Julius McDowell and Vitaliy Negoda MacDhùghaill

In this the final article of this series; we discuss the Modern Revival of Scottish Martial Arts, defined as the period between 1700s to today. We will take a look at some Masters of Scottish Martial Arts, then at one of the schools that teach the skills past on to us today.

Masters of the Scottish Martial Arts

William Machrie - Scottish fencing master who taught in Aberdeen and Edinburgh, Scotland in the late 17th to early 18th centuries. He was also known as the Judge and Arbitrator of all who make any public Trial of Skill in the Noble Art of the Sword, within the Kingdom of Scotland.

Sir William Hope 1660–1724 - Scottish fencing master who wrote a number of books on fencing, his most important works being the "New Method" (dedicated to William Keith, 9th Earl Marischal of Scotland), and the "Vade-Mecum".

Donald McBane 1664–1730 - Born in Inverness, joined the British Army, fought in the Highlands and in Europe where he started a number of fencing schools.

Captain James Miller - Scottish fencing master who dedicated his treatise of 1735 to John Campbell, 2nd Duke of Argyll.

Thomas Page - He dedicated his Broadsword treatise to John Hobart, 1st Earl of Buckingham, Lord Lieutenant of the County of Norfolk.

Captain G. Sinclair - Officer in the 42nd Royal Highland Regiment of Foot (Black Watch), during the late 1700s. He wrote two treatises on the Broadsword or Singlestick, "Anti-Pugilism" in 1790, and a later "Cudgel-Playing Modernized and Improved" in 1800.

Archibald MacGregor – Scottish fencing master who toured Scotland in the late 1700s giving lectures and instruction on the sword.

Henry Angelo 1760-1839 - Broadsword masters to the Light Horse Volunteers of London and Westminster at the time he wrote his treatise in 1799, which they dedicate to Colonel Herries.

Thomas Mathewson - An Englishman who taught the Art of Scottish Broadsword. He also wrote his treatise in 1805.

Cateran Broadsword Academy – Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/cateransociety/home>

We teach the art of the Highland Broadsword, a reconstructed historical fencing style of 18th century Scotland. Studying several historical methods of Highland broadsword along with other arts and weapons such as the sgian dubh, tomahawk, two handed sword, targe, buckler, battle-ax, cudgel, two swords and the MacGregor Method. The core of our art is based on old fencing manuals and military drill books. Founded by the author of the title "Highland Broadsword" and also the current Headmaster of the Cateran Broadsword Academy, Mentor Christopher Scott Thompson.

Today following in the footsteps of our ancestors you have two fellow clansmen devoted to the study and teaching of Scottish Martial Arts. If you have an interest in pursuing an interest in Scottish Martial Arts, feel free to contact us or join the Cateran Broadsword Academy or other local organization.

Email:

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Some articles to look forward to in 2013 Vinci Vel Mori Newsletters.....

More on the Ancient History Of Scotland

Personal MacDowall/ McDowell Family Stories.

Your DNA, what it can say, how it can affect you, how will it connect our world.

More News from Chief Fergus,

Information about Scottish clans, in Russia and worldwide.

May I say what a pleasure it has been to be your editor this past year.

Let me know what you want to hear about this year.

Please send me any McDowell family story you want told in the newsletter

Charlotte McDowell Baker