

# VINCERE VEL MORI

## CLAN MACDOWALL NEWSLETTER

**Issue 2, 2012 Vincere Vel Mori Victory or Death**

### June Letter from Chief Fergus

Dear Clanspersons,

Welcome to all participants in our free Clan MacDowall Newsletter On behalf of our extended Family associated together as Clan MacDowall I congratulate Charlotte McDowell Baker on her initiative, foresight, planning, design and first email production of "VINCERE VEL MORI", Clan MacDowall Newsletter, Vol. 1, No. 1. Charlotte , the organizing manager of the McDowell DNA Project, is co-editing her Newsletter with the prominent news journalist, author and international MacDougall recruiter William (Bill) MacDougall of the Makerstoun line of Macdowalls in Roxburghshire, the instigator, editor and co-author of our book The MacDowalls.

This Newsletter was preceded 27 years ago by the first entitled "The Macdowalls of Galloway" with family histories, heraldry, pedigrees and letters from kinsmen. It was co-authored and edited by my avowed fellow armigerous clansman the late Strome Carmichael-Galloway, Colonel of The Canadian Guards Regiment and President of The (now Royal) Heraldry Society of Canada. Prior to that at the request of President Prof. Walter M. MacDougall of The Clan MacDougall Society of The United States and Canada, (now of North America) three articles on the Macdowall of Garthland history were published in consecutive issues of their colorful Newsletter "The Tartan" which continues to carry some of our information for the joint MacDougall-MacDowall society.

In the book "The MacDowalls" we referred to the several stirps (branches) of the Family in Galloway whose feudal freedom from Clan dependence has developed into the great diversity of surname spellings that have appeared through the past six centuries. As an example I recently heard from an American McDill seeking any information on two of his name who were executed in Edinburgh after an incident in 1526, for a book he is preparing on his family history. I knew nothing about it, but from the date it was possible to deduce that the McDills were probably in the parliamentary cortege of Fergus M'Douall of Freuch who faced a party at feud with them on the narrow Royal Mile that precipitated a lethal riot engulfing the public.

We need the collaboration of clansmen having historical information from anywhere to contact the Newsletter together with any current news to help to weave a Clan network of mutual interest and benefit.....

Each of us is a piece of the jigsaw puzzle important in the whole picture of the MacDowalls.  
Can you contribute what information you have before your records are lost as has often happened in our Family?

With all best wishes,

Fergus (D.H.) Macdowall, Ph.D., Baron of Garthland, Chief of the Name and Arms of MacDowall



#### **Clan MacDougall News**

Grand Father Mountain Games July 12-15 2012

Founders Dinner July 13, 2012

Annual General Meeting August 3-4 ,2012 Livonia, Michigan

Link to all the Information and reservations below:

<http://www.macdougall.org/notices.html>

# The Human Colonization of Scotland

**This is a small installment of our story** keeping our theme, learning who we are as a people. how we developed and where we went from there.

Scotland was first settled roughly 10,000 years ago after the end of the last ice age. The first reference to the people of Scotland comes from Roman sources that referred to the people north of Firth of Clyde and Firth of Forth as Picts, and whose territory was referred to as Caledonia.

In 410 AD the Roman army withdrew and the areas above was occupied by Picts.

Below the Antonine wall was occupied by the Roman-influenced Celtic Britons. They were subject to Invasions from the 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Centuries by 3 different population groups; Scots from Ireland, Anglo-Saxons from the continent, and the Norse from Scandinavia.

The extent to which they replaced native populations, or have contributed to the genetic make-up of Scotland remains to be determined. DNA analysis may indeed shed light on this.

The Gaels and their Gaelic culture gradually overwhelmed or assimilated the Picts in the North, while the Anglo-Saxons predominated in the south.

It was Anglo-Saxon language, a variant of early English which eventually became the predominant tongue of lowland Scotland, while the Gaelic Scots gifted the Gaelic language spoken largely in the Highlands and Islands.

The Viking invaders eventually took hold of the Western Isles, Caithness, Sutherland, Galloway, Orkney and Shetland, giving rise to the mercenary Viking-Scottish warriors known as Gallowglass.

The last of the medieval settlers, the Normans, distant relatives of the Vikings, were invited into Scotland by King David 1<sup>st</sup> in 1124 AD.

King David was greatly impressed by the governmental and cultural innovations they introduced to England.

**Note from the Editor:** In this history it is important for us to note that England and Scotland were both attached to the entire land mass of Europe (before) the last age. They became separate with the thaw as a large Island mass. I wonder if Ireland and the Isles of Scotland were also a part of the Large land Mass Prior to the Ice age? Does any one have any information on this? Could it be that it was (only) isolated but already colonized before the Ice Age.? Interesting.....

Most of the Information above was taken from this website

Here is your link:

<http://www.scottishorigenes.com/tags/history>

## The Enduring Memory of William Makdowall 1500-1580

**During this most turbulent period of Scottish history this man found his way in the world with his skill and devotion.**

William Makdowall was born at or about **1500** by accounts of the writer Michael McDowall's book "The Copper Inheritance", A History of the Kindred of McDowall of Scotland.

Here is a timeline of his accomplishments: "Sir Willaim Makdowall was described a Pope's Knight. He is first mentioned as witness to a document in February **1527**, In a record made by John Foulter a notary in Edinburgh in **1530** he was present when several lands were taken possession of by Margaret Queen of Scotland, ( Sister of King Henry the VIII) married to the King of France. In **1550** he was the Chaplain of the Dean of Guild, then granted 1 acre for his burial rights from his kinsman John Makdowall. **1552** William Makdowall became "Master of the Queens Works". In **1554** William was appointed Chaplain at the Altar of St. Michael in the Palace of Holyrood, at the Death of James Moffat. In **1567** William was recorded as the Vicar of Leswalt. Also He was recorded as the Vicar of Inch between **1559/1566**, Then another honor In **1559/60** he was recorded "lord of the feudals" over the church lands of Leswalt. Sir William's early activity as a Master of the Queens Works included operations of Holyrood and Inch, and Leith and also Edinburgh Castle. In Leith he was responsible for building two beacons on the east end of the breakwater. While in Edinburgh he built up the hall slopes of the Park Dyke. The Cunzie House the home of the Scottish mint was built under his direction in **1559**. During the period of **1561** through **1566**. Sir William was also responsible to Queen Mary of Scots as the Keeper of Gardens at Holyrood, and Edinburgh Castle. From **1568** to **1577** there is no record of Sir William Makdowall, who reenters) as a Master of the Queens Works to repair Davey's Tower after the **1573** seige of Edinburgh Castle and to make a New Portcullis Gate known as " Regent Morton's Gateway". This work is his lasting memorial, using Renaissance detail with flair it stands in stark contrast to the plain rubble masonry of the battery and was finished December **1577** and it still stands today. There were many other works by Sir William we were not able to record in this volume. By **1579** Sir Robert Drummond of Carnock took over as Master of Works office that Sir William had occupied for more than 25 years, one of the most turbulent periods in Scottish history. It is believed that Sir William died in or around **1580**.

**NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:** a quick study on the things that happened that marked Sir Williams life, would give any of us pause to wonder how he stayed alive and in his time. **1513** Uchtred and Thomas MakDowall both kinsmen died at the battle of Flodden field. **1521** John Knox was declared a enemy to Rome, by **1530's** his teachings were spread to Germany, by **1550's** Scotland was adopting his message. April **1550** James MacDowall of Freugh obtained confirmation of his inherited lands and title. Then John asked Sir Hugh Kennedy of Girvan-mains and William Makdowall Vicar of Inch, and David Wat to surrender lands on his behalf of their portions to The Queen Regent, Marie of Guise. She was to craft for them a new charter. On August 20th **1559**. Marie Guise ,royal caretaker of Mary child of Henry VII died .All the lands in the new charter were lost. Mary was by then 19 and became Mary Queen of Scots. In **1568** Queen Mary Escaped Scotland to England after her defeat at the Battle Of Langside. The Earls of Moray,Lennox, Mar and Morton all assumed the regency in quick succession. During his lifetime William saw death and quarrels in the family: the tearing of religion and values: old Scottish ways of life destroyed forever. Death and destruction covered Scotland, all through these troubled years. Somehow Sir William kept his faith and position, always fulfilling his duties as Vicar and Master of the Queens Works. He finished the course with only his integrity to see him through. Sir William lived and died with honor.... Link to more info about these times below:

[http://history-world.org/reformation\\_and\\_counter\\_reformat.htm](http://history-world.org/reformation_and_counter_reformat.htm)

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**Built during the Regency of the Earl of Morton, the gateway incorporates two outer doors and a inner door, as well as a portcullis. It was finished in December 1577 by Sir William Makdowall, but completed in 1584 by William Schaw with the addition of two stories to provide protection to the portcullis. The present upper part named the Argyll Tower was built in 1886-7. Sir William's Legacy much like our own is a gateway from our known past through to our uncertain future.**



**For more information on any of the articles in this newsletter, or to contact the editor to submit your McDowell/MacDowall family stories for review, please contact the Editor**

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