“Ni h-eibhneas gan Chlainn Domhnaill...” 
(It is no joy without Clan Donald …)

Finlaggan - Centre of The Lordship of the Isles

Finlaggan, the centre of the Lordship of the Isles, is an island settlement in the beautiful secluded Loch Finlaggan in the north east corner of the Isle of Islay. The site is maintained by the Finlaggan Trust. Recent archaeological excavations have demonstrated that Finlaggan has been occupied since very early times, but it achieved most fame in the 14th and 15th centuries under the MacDonald Lords of the Isles. There are two islands, the larger accessible by a walkway or boat. It is called Eilean Mòr (large island). The path across the island goes over the remains of the 13th century defences and then through an area of old lazy-beds, probably dating to the 16th century. When an area of these was excavated, underlying remains of at least two round houses and a small pit with Bronze Age pottery, were exposed. On the highest point of the island are the ruins of the 14th century chapel with its burial ground. One of the most remarkable discoveries of the recent excavations was that all these buildings, some twenty at any one time, were connected by a system of paved roads and alleys. One went from a jetty near the great hall to the chapel and another from the chapel past the great hall to the south end of the island. This jetty was the main access point to the island in the later medieval period. About 50 metres from the south tip of Eilean Mòr, is the smaller Eilean na Comhairle (Council Island – pronounced Ail-an-na-cor-le) so called because it was here that the Lords of the Isles built their council house. The council advised the Lords of the Isles, made laws and legal judgments according to the laws made by Reginald, son of Somerled, the ancestor of the MacDonalds. Eilean na Comhairle was connected to Eilean Mòr by a stone causeway, substantial remains of which can be traced under the surface of the loch.

(www.islayinfo.com)
Clan Donald Nova Scotia hosted the Annual Meeting for Clan Donald Canada in October...
Achievement Award Presented

Donald and Mary Barry of Antigonish were honoured with an Achievement Award at a luncheon at Maritime Inn last July. Both have been involved with Clan Donald locally, provincially, and nationally for many years. They have given generously of their time and talents to community service and to their church; for example, Boy Scouts, Youth Camps, Senior Groups, Credit Union, Food Bank, St. Vincent DePaul Society, Knights of Columbus, St. Ninian’s Catholic Women’s League, and volunteering for Victorian Order of Nurses! Donald is a graduate of St. F.X. with a Bachelor of Arts degree and Master of Arts in Adult Education. He retired some years ago from the Department of Education where he was a Consultant for the Adult Education Program in Eastern Nova Scotia. Mary graduated from Mount St. Bernard College. She was employed by the Bank of Nova Scotia in her earlier years and in the business office and Angus L. Macdonald Library at St. F.X. University.

Mary and Donald have celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary, an outstanding milestone in their lives. They have raised seven children, four daughters and three sons, all of whom are graduates of St. F.X. University and are success stories in their own lives. They have grandchildren and great-grandchildren with whom they share their summers at the family cottage in Arisaig.

The award was presented, on behalf of Clan Donald Nova Scotia, by Donald and Mary’s good friend and neighbour, Irene Lefort.

Congratulations to a most deserving couple!

Annual Memorial Service in Pictou

CDNS Commissioner Barry MacDonald welcomes everyone to the service.

Blaine MacDonald reading scripture lesson; Burns MacDonald at keyboard.

If we know where we came from, we may better know where to go. If we know who we came from, we may better understand who we are.
Highland Games in Nova Scotia …

New Glasgow Festival of the Tartans

Nova Scotia Lt. Gov. J.J. Grant and Mrs. Grant in front of the Clan Donald Tent at New Glasgow Highland Games.

Lynn MacLean, Sheila, MP Sean Fraser, Wade at New Glasgow Games.

Antigonish Highland Games

Finding Ancestral Home on Map of Scotland

Culloden Commemoration Service at Knoydart, Nova Scotia

Fat Christensen laid a wreath on behalf of Clan Donald

Dedication & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Dr. John Hamilton sprinkles whisky on the Cairn
The North British Society of Halifax
(excerpt from an essay on “The Presence of the Clan Donald in Nova Scotia” by CDNS Historian, Ronald A. MacDonald)

In 1768, the North British Society of Halifax was established. In adopting the name “North British Society”, the Halifax body followed the example of North British Societies of Glasgow and Edinburgh, which were formed, so I recall, in the early 1760s. That name, I presume, was adopted as an assurance that there were no Jacobite tendencies in its structure or among its membership, the Battle of Culloden having taken place in 1746. This organization wished to assure one and all that it would not be fomenting any rebellion that would seek to restore the Stuarts to the throne of England.

A review of the membership lists in the first years of the North British Society of Halifax suggests that its membership consisted of immigrants from Glasgow and Edinburgh. One looks in vain for any “Highland” names. While one assumes that they were all honourable gentlemen, it does not appear that any of them carried Clan Donald blood in their veins in those first years.

On March 3, 1774, the ice was broken, when Andrew MacDonald, a retired Major of the 59th Highland Regiment, was admitted to membership in the Society. Major MacDonald added a great deal of colour to its gatherings, as his likeness survives, which portrays him in Highland regalia. A short biographical sketch of the Major appears in the annals of the society. He may well have been the first resident of Nova Scotia to wear the full Highland dress.

In the last decades of the 1700s, other MacDonalds were admitted to membership in the North British Society. No details of their occupations or other biographical information is provided, only their names. Alex MacDonald became a member in 1784, while Captain K. MacDonald, formerly of the Fraser Highlanders, was admitted shortly thereafter. One Hugh MacDonald became a member in 1799.

The fact that very few MacDonald or other Highland names are on the records of the Halifax North British Society supports the view that few Gaelic-speaking people chose Halifax as their home town. As we shall see, most Highland settlement would take place in the north of the province, in what would become the seven easternmost counties of the Province.

Bereavements

MACDONALD, William Donald John (WDJ), age 94 of New Glasgow, a member of Pictou County Branch of Clan Donald, passed away March 5, 2016. WDJ was a recipient of the CDNS Achievement Award in 2005.

MACKAY, Dr. John Allan, age 92 of New Glasgow on May 7, 2016. Member of Pictou County Branch, life member of Clan Donald Nova Scotia and Clan Donald Canada.

ANDERSON, M. Catherine, age 93, Avondale, Pictou County, passed away February 2, 2016 in the Aberdeen Hospital, New Glasgow. Catherine was a member of the Pictou County Branch.

MACKEEN, Harold R. “Sandy” III, passed away on March 9, 2015 in Waianaie, Hawaii. Member of Pictou County and life member of Nova Scotia.

Those we love don’t go away, They walk beside us every day, Unseen, unheard, but always near, Still loved, still missed and very dear.
Culloden Tales
Stories from Scotland’s Most Famous Battlefield
(by Hugh G. Allison)

MacDonell of Keppoch
As I stand here, on this open ground, looking east, the wind is bitter and I can feel the touch of ice along the edges of my bones. This ground is not good for our charge. But I will do what I can, for the Prince, and for my Chief.

Our traditional place of honour on the right, given to us by Robert the Bruce, after Bannockburn, has been taken by the Athollmen. For our Prince, we have agreed to this place on the left. The line here is not straight, though, so we shall have far further to run than the other regiments, and much of the field in front of us is low, flat and covered with water to the depth of our knees, so I cannot see how that shall be. But we will strive to our utmost.

I am a captain in my father’s regiment, and am called Angus Ban of Inch. Though Keppoch is my father, hopefully I will never have to lead the clan, being only a natural son. I am, however, determined to make him proud today.

Alexander MacDonell, my father, is the 17th Chief of the MacDonalds of Keppoch. He matriculated at the University of Glasgow in 1713, where he studied until leaving to join his own father, and the Jacobite forces, in the 1715 rising. Exiled to the Continent, he then served as an officer in the French Army. He was allowed to return to Scotland in 1719, and settled, for a time, at Waternish in Skye. It was there that he had a union with my mother. She was a weaver, but I was never to know her, as she died during my infancy. My father returned to Keppoch about 1729, where he managed to live quietly until now. Last year he raised his men to join the Prince at Glenfinnan, in August. Since then we have been almost the length of this island Kingdom. Most recently, the Prince sent us to besiege Fort William, and we only returned to his side, here at Culloden, last night. And now, here we stand, 200 strong, awaiting the call to action.

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The ice on my bones turned to stone in my belly. We were defeated. We made a brave attempt, all of the MacDonald Regiments. So much went wrong. The order to charge came too late, and the ground stopped us building the power needed to smash the redcoat ranks. All we could do was come close, and try to tempt them to action. We tried this tactic three times, coming to under a hundred yards of them, but all to no avail. And then the right and centre retired in full flight, and all we could do was follow them, because our right flank was then open to raking fire.

Donald Roy MacDonald saw my father caught in the deadly grapeshot and falling. He found the strength to shout to Donald, ‘O God, have mercy upon me! Donald do the best for yourself, for I am gone.’ So commanded, Donald Roy ran on.

James MacDonell, a captain like me, came upon my father, and seeing that it was only his arm that was shattered, he helped him up, but as they struggled back, a second shot hit Keppoch in the back, and he fell again. James checked for signs of life. Seeing none, he left him. By this time we were all in full flight, and the next two men to recognize the chief, where he lay, were Angus Ferguson and John MacInnes. Their stories were so similar there is no reason to doubt either. Both thought Keppoch to be dead, and bore witness to his shattered right arm and fatal chest wound – from back through to front. I was next to pass, and felt my heart like to break when I saw him. But he wasn’t gone. He rallied a little, and my companions and I lifted him and got him clear of the field. ‘We will dress his wounds, and then try to get him home,’ I said. We took him to a nearby hut, filled with many of the wounded from the field, but by the time we laid him down, he was dead.

Unlooked for, I was now Tutor of Keppoch, required to lead the clan during my half-brother’s minority. I acted as my father would have wished, saving such of our people as I could, from that field of death. I took his sword and dirk home, and hid them near to Keppoch House.

I went to the meeting of the chiefs at Achnacarry on the 8th of May, where we entered into a bond of mutual defence in our now perilous situation. We were the last of the clans to lay down arms. Capitulation became inevitable when the enemy invaded our glens. Keppoch House was burned on the 3rd of June, and I took my father’s family into hiding. His colours were burned at Glasgow Mercat Cross on the 25th of June and, in many ways, that was the true end of the rising for us.

Sometimes in my mind, I see the boulder, marking the place of my father’s fall, and I think ‘Take this burden back! I only want he who has gone to be restored to us.’

(Based on the accounts of Angus Ban and other members of the Keppoch Regiment.)
Rumbledethumps is a very easy and flexible recipe often called the Scottish version of "Bubble and Squeak". It is usually served as part of a meal with meat, but can be eaten on its own as a supper. For variations on Rumbledethumps add crispy chunks of bacon, spring onions, leeks or nutmeg grated on top.

**INGREDIENTS:**
(Serves two)
- 450g/16oz potatoes, roughly diced.
- 350g/12oz cabbage, finely shredded.
- 1 large onion, sliced finely.
- 4 tablespoons butter.
- 4 tablespoons white cheddar cheese, grated.

**METHOD:**
1. Preheat the oven to 400°F
2. Roughly dice the potatoes and boil in a medium sized pan. When a sharp knife can be easily inserted and the potatoes are soft, drain and place back in the pan.
3. Mash the potatoes evenly.
4. Shred the cabbage and slice the onion, using a food processor or by hand.
5. Place the butter in a frying pan over high heat and melt.
6. Add the cabbage and onion to the frying pan and turn over until evenly coated in the butter.
7. Leave over the heat for a few minutes until the cabbage and onion wilts. Make sure you do not brown the vegetables.
8. Add roughly half the cheese and all the potatoes. Stir evenly until the cheese has melted over a simmering heat.
9. Season with salt and pepper.
10. Place in a serving dish and sprinkle with the rest of the cheese.
11. Place in the hot oven and bake until the cheese has melted and the top is golden.
12. Serve immediately.

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**2017 Events**

**Ceilidh** in support of Feed Nova Scotia hosted by Clan Donald Halifax Region, Thursday, February 23, 7 p.m., at St. Andrew's Church Hall, 216 School St., Dartmouth. All welcome!

**Tartan Day**, Thursday, April 6 ... check local papers for events.

**Culloden Memorial**, Saturday, April 22 10:45, Knoydart, NS

**CDNS Spring Meeting** - Saturday, May 13th. Lunch at noon, followed by meeting. 159 Pleasant Drive, Lyons Brook, NS. (902-382-2219)

**Kirkin’ of the Tartan** - Covenanter Church, Grand Pre, Sunday, June 4th, 2:30 pm, sponsored by Annapolis Valley Branch of Clan Donald.

**Antigonish Highland Games** - July 2-9. Columbus Field, Clan Tent - Saturday, July 8.

**New Glasgow Festival of the Tartans**

**Memorial Service**, Sunday, August 13, 2:30 pm at Clan Donald Monument in Pictou.

**Clan Donald Canada AGM**, September 8-9, at Ramada Inn, Cornwall, Ontario. Hosted by Glengarry-Stormont Branch.
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