

## BADGES OF CLAN DONALD

Clan Donald-USA supports international efforts to maintain and improve the clan-owned lands and buildings at Armadale Castle, our ancestral home located on Scotland's Isle of Skye. This is done through the Clan Donald Land's Trust.

We also provide support for the Clan Donald Foundation --- an organization dedicated to the preservation of Scottish customs, heritage and traditions.

We encourage the extension of our heritage to the younger generations through a scholarship program for those who are pursuing training in Scottish culture, musical arts, piping and dance.

### HOW YOU CAN JOIN US:

If you have an interest in celebrating your MacDonald heritage, or wish to help pass these traditions along to your children, please join us today!

For more information and an application for membership, you may contact our local clan representative listed below. Please provide your name, address, and telephone number so we may contact you.

Our current membership dues are \$25.00 per year. Life memberships are available for \$250.00.



MACDONALD OF  
CLANRANALD



MACDONELL OF  
GLENGARRY



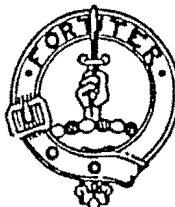
MACDONALD OF  
SLEAT



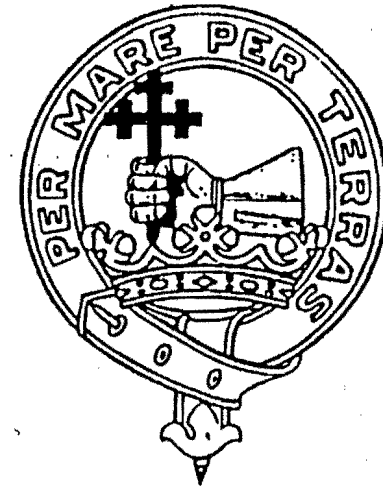
MACDONALD OF  
THE ISLES



MACDONELL OF  
KEPPOCH



MACALISTER  
House of Loup



MACDONALD

THIS

IS

CLAN  
DONALD  
U.S.A.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF CLAN DONALD:

Clan Donald is the oldest, largest and most famous of the Scottish clans. Its Celtic heritage goes back into antiquity beyond the 6th century A.D. to the great clans Conn and Colla in what is today Ireland. Our ancestors were regarded as the heads of the ancient race of Conn, and the lineal heirs of the kings of the Dalriadic Scots.

Clan Donald begins its recorded history with Somerled, a great leader and warrior-king. In 1156 Somerled defeated the Norse King of Man, who had occupied the western isles and large portions of the Scottish mainland. He thus secured independence for the Celtic people who lived there. This independence lasted for over four centuries.

Somerled became known as "Rex Insularum" or "King of the Isles." Over time, this title evolved to "Lord of the Isles." His genius at both land and naval warfare gave rise to the clan motto, "*Per Mare Per Terras,*" which means "*By Sea By Land.*"

Clan Donald takes its name from Donald, the grandson of Somerled. In Gaelic, "Mac" means "son of." For about four centuries "MacDonald" was a title, not a surname.

Over the centuries, the power of the Lords of the Isles grew and it brought them into conflict with both the English and Scottish kings and with other powerful clans. This growth and power also gave rise to other forces which were eventually to cause the clan's downfall. Territorial expansion made centralized authority more difficult to maintain. The increasing clan population gave rise to allegiances to strong local leaders of the branches of the clan. Territories assigned to sons of various chiefs became more independent and weakened the central authority.

When James VI of Scotland, who held the title of Lord of the Isles, became James I of England, the title went with him. Male heirs to the British crown retain the title to the present day.

MacDonalds remained powerful and important in the Highlands, but the six major branches of the clan were no longer unified as under the Lord of the Isles.

After the Battle of Culloden in 1746 and the clan way of life in Scotland was destroyed, massive migrations that sent MacDonalds all over the world began.

### WHO WE ARE:

Clan Donald-USA is a nationwide organization of over 5,000 persons who trace their ancestry to any of the branches of the MacDonald Clan or to the more than 120 septs or affiliated families which constitute the total clan.

Clan Donald-USA is an affiliation by blood and kinship, not only by name. Clanship is a family matter that transcends nationality. We regard ourselves as an extended family.

We call ourselves "Clan Donald" rather than the "MacDonalds" to recognize the diversity of names within our extended family. Even the name "MacDonald" has a variety of spellings --- MacDonald, McDonald, MacDonell, MacDonnell as well as the anglicized versions of Donald, Donaldson, Daniels and others. Add to these the names of the sept families from northwestern Scotland and northeastern Ireland, and you can see why our kinsmen have constituted the largest and most famous of clans for almost 1000 years.

In 1958, Lord Alexander Godfrey MacDonald, then High Chief of Clan Donald, established the Clan Donald Society of America to serve as an extension of the clan in the United States.

Ellice McDonald of Delaware was appointed High Commissioner of the Society in 1976. He reorganized the society into its present administrative format and incorporated it as Clan Donald-USA in the State of Delaware.

Nationally, Clan Donald operates under the leadership of a High Commissioner. There are thirteen regions, each with its own Regional Commissioner. Each state has its own Commissioner and several Conveners (local coordinators) who facilitate activities and gatherings for members.

Clan Donald-USA has counterpart organizations in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Belgium and the United Kingdom.

### WHAT WE DO:

Clan Donald-USA exists to help our members celebrate our common heritage, the customs and traditions of our forebearers, and to encourage the accomplishments of ourselves and our children.

We seek to provide motivation and opportunity for those of MacDonald blood in the United States to actively share in this heritage through a variety of activities, communications, genealogical research and general camaraderie.

Our national office publishes our clan magazine entitled "*By Sea By Land.*" Each region also publishes its own newsletters. We maintain a genealogy and reference center at the Ellen Payne Odom Genealogical Library in Moultrie, Georgia. Our clan genealogist maintains many individual family histories and may be of assistance in tracing your ancestral roots.

Each fall, an Annual General Meeting (AGM) is held at different locations around the country. All members are encouraged to attend. Information sessions, special tours and educational workshops are important features of each AGM.

Each region and state also host a variety of activities and clan gatherings locally. General information sessions, genealogy workshops, Robert Burns dinners, attendance at Highland games, clan picnics, etc. provide opportunities for members to enjoy the company of other Clan Donald members and to learn more about their heritage.

Within each state, local conveners help members plan a variety of fun and entertaining meetings such as potluck suppers, attendance at pipe band concerts, country dance sessions, backyard barbecues and the like.

Members are strongly encouraged to take an active role in as many events as possible.