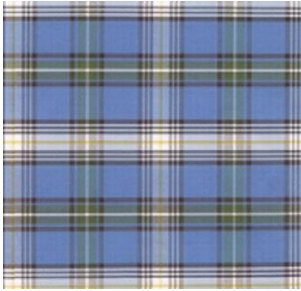


Clan MACDOWALL of Galloway

Clan MacDougall Society of North America represents two clans: Clan MacDougall of Argyll and Clan MacDowall of Galloway. This page contains information for MacDowall. For information on Clan MacDougall, please see their page.

CREST: An arm upright holding a sword.

MOTTO: Vincere vel Mori, Win or Die



MacDowall



Galloway District

NAME VARIANTS: Associated With Clan MacDowall of Galloway: Coul, MacCoul, McCoul, Cool, MacCool, McCool, Macoual, McHoul, Coyle, MacCoyle, McCoyle, Dole, MacDole, MacDill, McDill, McDoll, Doual, MacDoual, McDoual, Macdoul, MacDool, MacDouel, MacDouyl, M'Douville, MacDuaelMacDuoel, MacDuel, MacDuhile, MacDull, MakDull, MacDuyl, Dowall, Duval, Duwall, MacDewell, MacDowal, MacDowall, MacDowell, McDowell, Macdowell, MacDowel, Macdowel, MacDowyl, MacDuwell, Dowdle, Dowler, Dowling, Dougal, Dougall, Dugle, MacDougall, McDougall, McDougall, MacDougall, Mcdougal, Kyle(of Clan MacDowall), M'Gowall, Mactheul

A SHORT HISTORY:

The proper spelling of the clan name is MacDowall with the letter "D" capitalized. The family originated in Galloway in what is now south west Scotland as descendants of Duegald who was a grandson of Prince Fergus of Galloway and the second son of Uchtred Lord of Galloway. Duegald the eponymous founder of the family is mentioned in the Melrose Chronicle as having been killed in a battle in 1185 while supporting his older brother.

For the next century Duegald's family were known as the Macdougalls in Galloway with their name spelt with a small letter "d". They have no proven relation to the MacDougalls of Argyll though their shared original Gaelic name of "Mac Dou gall" meaning "son of the black stranger" suggests that both have a Norse heritage. The name "Black Foreigner" or "Black Stranger" was the early Gaelic term or nickname for a Dane, later extended to other Norsemen and by Duegald's time it applied more generally to persons of Norse descent. Duegald's descendants' family name of "Macdougall" came from adding the Gaelic prefix "Mac" meaning "son of" in front of his name.

On 7 July 1292 the family name spelling of Macdougall in Galloway was written in modified form to distinguish it from the Highland clan MacDougall of Argyll in a time period when leaders of both were required to sign the oath of fealty known as the Ragman Roll as required of the Scottish nobility by King Edward I of England. The Macdougall in Galloway family name spelling was modified when the letters "ug" were changed to "w" (i.e. "uu" pronounced "oo") in a Norman transliteration introduced under King Edward I of England. However the Makerston branch of the family founded circa 1370 on the Borders in south east Scotland carried on for centuries using the original name of "Macdougall" or "Makdougall" always using the small letter "d".

In later centuries the spellings of Macdowall with a capital "D" and also with the letter "e" as in "MacDowell" became common especially after some emigrated from Galloway across to nearby Ireland during the Plantations of Ulster in the early 1600's, and then later from Ireland on to North America. As a result most of the members of the family now live in the United States where the "e" spelling is most commonly found but many other variant spellings of our name exist as well.

Clan MACDOUGALL Society of North America

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