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Black Hills Celtic Events.org
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October 2011

Serving the Celtic Communities of: Wales, Isle of Man, Cornwall (England), Galicia (Spain), Brittany (France), Scotland and Ireland



Mark those calendars

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 29th Samhain 6pm
Hamilton's House 1011 West Boulevard.
- Nov. 1st Board Meeting Dr. Jim Byrne's Office 3825 Canyon Lake Dr.
- Nov. 15th Regular Membership Meeting. Program Roger Ronnie Concerning Starting Celtic Dancing. 7pm Celts Hall at Central States Fairgrounds
- Dec. 6th Board Meeting.
- Dec. Hogmanay Still In The Planning Stages.



President Pat Hamilton

President's Message

President's Letter – October 2011 – Pat Hamilton

We are winding down the summer and gearing up for an active fall & winter. To continue providing a broad spectrum of opportunities, we need our members to be active and be

LOUD MOUTHS. Tell others how much fun you have. Tell others how interesting our programs are. Tell others what great folks are in the Scottish & Irish Society. You can make a difference. I can make a difference. We can make a difference. Get involved and get **OTHERS** involved too! **Be a LOUD MOUTH!!!**

Rapid City Society for Genealogical Research

June Beason provided some valuable genealogy insights for our members at our September general meeting. She welcomes any S.I.S. members to come and visit any of their meetings. There next meeting of the Rapid City Society for Genealogical Research is October 20th at 7pm at the First United Methodist Church on Kansas City Street and the program will be on the **Find a Grave site**. She also commented that some of our members expressed interest in their Society's annual trip to Salt Lake City. It is set for Sept. 9-16, 2012. June will make a note to send the info on this to S.I.S. so that we can pass it on to our members.

Shall we DANCE?



Roger Ronnie will be giving any interested members a mini Scottish dance lesson for our November 15 membership meeting. We will be meeting at the Celt's

Hall at the Fairgrounds. The Dakota Celts are graciously hosting the event to allow us enough space to easily 'kick up our heels' a bit. We have several interested members and this mini lesson will allow people an opportunity to experience Roger's teaching style and get a feel for the expectations required. This is a great

opportunity – take advantage of it and join us Tuesday, November 15, at 7:00 at the Celt's Hall at the Pennington Country Fairgrounds.

Samhain

We'll be celebrating Samhain at Pat & Gary Hamilton's house (1011 West Boulevard, Rapid City) on Saturday, October 29th, 6:00. The Dakota Celts will be joining us. There will be food, games, music, costume contest and a history lesson on the origins of Samhain. Something for everyone!

Please bring:

- Folding chairs or lawn chairs
- Snacks or hors d'oeuvres
- Beverage of your choice
- Your voice or musical instrument for a short Ceilidh
- Yourself all 'gussied up' for the costume contest!

FUN, FUN, FUN!!!! See you there.

Pat Hamilton,
S.I.S. President



Meeting Notes

General Meeting 9/20/2011

Aliyah Sanders Acting President.
12 members in attendance.

Program presented by June Beason from the RC Society for Genealogical Research. The Society meets at the United Methodist Church on Kansas City the 3rd Thursday of the month in the Parlor Room at 7pm. Dues are \$20 per year.

June had a great presentation and suggested a couple of web sites you may not have heard of. Familysearch.org and Findagrave.com.

Board Meeting 10/04/2011

Acting President Jim Byrne. Board members in attendance Aliyah Sanders, Susan Peterson, Winnie Balster, Carole Conrad, and John Burke. Gary Hamilton also attended.

Treasurer's Report \$2070.78

Old Business

The Gathering of the Clans was discussed with positive feedback. The word is there will be another next year in 2012.

SIS Cookbook. There are only six new recipes. Try your best to share recipes with Siaryn Duggan gaelictreader@rushmore.com or Sally Knight halloknight@aol.com.

New Business

Samhain was discussed and a committee was formed to finalize the event. See Pat's Presidents Letter.

Bill Knight is pursuing some kind of Club shirt for the members.

Clan and family articles for the newsletter is being encouraged.

A nominating committee will be formed for elections for 2012.

It has been proposed that the By-Laws be changed, to having the elections held in February instead of January and officers installed in March at the St. Pat's Celebration. Member input is encouraged.

Member Notes

Contributed by Susan Peterson

CLAN DONNACHAIDH/"CHILDREN OF DUNCAN"/ROBERTSON

William F. Skene an eminent historian stated in 1837, "The Robertsons of Struan are unquestionably the oldest family in Scotland, being the sole remaining branch of the Royal House of Atholl which occupied the throne of Scotland during the 11th and 12th centuries".

Clan Donnachaidh meaning "The Children of Duncan," emerged from the union of the Scottish and Pictish kingdoms. The name comes from the Gaelic word "clann" meaning child and "Donnachaidh" the Gaelic spelling of the name Duncan. Our ancestors were known to the Romans as the Kaledonioi, or Caledonia, one of the eleven tribes of the northern Picts. They occupied an area from the Grampians to Perthshire and from Angus to Argyll. In Perthshire the area was known as Atholl. The Caledonia was the only race in Europe not defeated by Imperial Rome.

The Clan descends from King Malcolm II, who reigned from 1005 to 1034. He was the last king in the direct male line to descend from Kenneth MacAlpine, who united the Scots and the Picts in 843 A.D. and is considered to be the founder of Scotland. After Malcolm's murder, his grandson, became King Duncan II, who in turn was murdered by MacBeth (remember Shakespear). Duncan's son, Malcolm went on to kill MacBeth and became King Malcolm III Ceann Mor (Canmore). During his 37 year reign, the first events now know as the Highland Games were held to choose the best available men to serve as his soldiers.

The first Chief of the Clan was Duncan or Donnachaidh Reamhair, (Duncan the Stout) (the second son of Angus MacDonald, the Lord of the Isles, his mother was the daughter of King Malcolm III) known as stout in battle (not belly), a famous fighter and strong supporter of Robert the Bruce. He commanded a force of 2,000 at the Battle of Bannockburn against the army of Edward II. The second chief was his eldest son Robert from 1355 to 1392. Duncan, Robert's eldest son was known as Lord of Rannoch.

Not all the history is glorious, and includes cattle raids and murder. However, because of the tracking and capture of the murderers of King James I, the clan crest badge has the right hand holding an imperial crown, awarded by King James II on August 15, 1451, (The only clan to have this honor), to our fourth Chief, Robert Ruabh Duncanson. His lands were erected into the free feudal barony of Struan at this time. Struan is one of only two highland chief's that are addressed and called by

the name of their territorial estates. The other is Cluny Macpherson.

It is perhaps from this Chief that descendant and many clansmen took the name Roberts sons, or Robertson. A second theory is that it comes from the close association to Robert the Bruce.

Jacobites to the end, our 13th chief, Alexander Robertson led 500 men at the Battle of Sheriffmuir. At it's height, the clan supplied 800 men to the cause in 1715 and 700 men in 1745. The Robertson land became part of the Forfeited Estates but were eventually returned in 1784. Unlike most of the Highland Noblemen, the Robertson chiefs did not take part of the clearances. This honourable but financially disadvantageous policy led to the eventual alienation of the entire clan lands by the early 20th century. Only the family vault at Dunalastair is still in the possession of the Struan; however, many modern properties have been added to the clan land. The title Baron of Struan is still transferred through Dunalastair.

Motto: Virtutis gloria merces (Glory is the reward of valor)

Slogan: Garg 'nuair dhùisgear (Fierce when roused)

Crest: A dexter hand holding up an imperial crown

Badge: Bracken (the clan had lands on the side of Loh Rannoch - Gaelic "Loch Raineach, " " the Loch of Bracken"

Pipe Music:

Salute: Fàilte Thighearna Sruthain (Struan Robertson's Salute)

Gathering: Thàinig Clann Dhonnchaidh
(The Robertsons Have Come)
March: Till an Crodh Dhonnchaidh
(Turn the Cattle, Donnachaidh);
 Riobain Gorm (Blue Ribbon);
 Teachd Chlann Dhonnchaidh
(Coming of the Robertsons)
Lament: Cumha Struthain (Lament for
Robertson of Struan)

Sources of information:
Chiefs of Clan Donnachaidh 1275-1749
by James Robertson
Clan Donnachaidh Society Papers
Clan Donnachaidh History by James E.
Fargo, FSA Scot.

Officers

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Treasurer Carole Conrad

Board Members Susan Kains, Susan Peterson, Winnie
Balster, John Burke

Past President Jim Byrne

Web Site Gary Hamilton

Newsletter John Burke
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Irish Blessing

May you have lots of happiness
And Irish luck too-
May your blessings be many
And your troubles be few.



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