

Scottish American Society Of Idaho

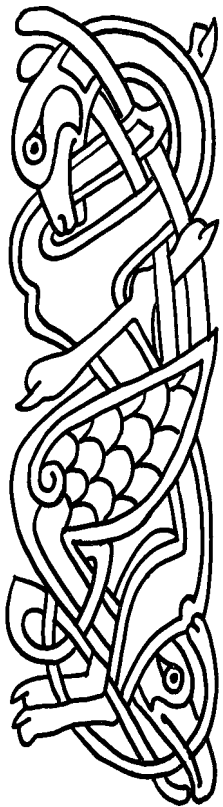
Boise State University and Treasure Valley Chapters ~ Spring 2005

What's in a Name? Clans, Families and Septs

Robin O. Blair, LVO, WS,
Lord Lyon, King of Arms



As people begin to explore their Scottish heritage, it's not long before they run into the terms clan, families, and septs. Questions usually arise as people try to find their clan affiliation based on their surname. The distinction between the three terms varies depending on the source. In general, the terms clan and family are interchangeable, with some sources identifying clans as being from the Highlands and families from the Lowlands, although the term clan seems to be commonly used for either origin. Septs are surnames that are considered to be associated with specific clans. For example, the surnames McDade, Davis, and Kay are all accepted septs of the clan Davidson.



Under Scottish Law, a clan is a legally recognized group with a corporate identity. According to Sir Crispin Agnew "the clan...has an officially recognized chief or head who, being a nobleman of Scotland, confers his noble status on the clan or family, thus making it a legally and statutorily recognised noble corporation often called 'the Honourable Clan'..." A clan that does not have an officially recognized chief, has no official position under the law of Scotland.

The clan system is closely related to Scottish heraldry. *Nesbet's System of Heraldry*, published in 1722 defines a clan as "A social group consisting of an aggregate of distinct erected families actually descended, or accepting themselves as descendants of a common ancestor, and which has been received by the Sovereign through its Supreme Officer of Honour, the Lord Lyon..."

A clan is therefore a community which is both distinguished by heraldry and recognized by the Sovereign.

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The Court of Lord Lyon is the official body with jurisdiction over all heraldic business in Scotland. Although the office is likely older, the earliest record of the appointment of a Lord Lyon was by King Robert the Bruce in 1318. The

position was responsible for verifying the genealogy of the King of Scotland. Currently, one of the central works of the Lyon's Court is to determine accurate clan chiefship. Chiefship is a title of honour and dignity with the nobility of Scotland, and anyone claiming to be a clan chief must establish, to the Lord Lyon, that he or she is entitled to the position.

So how do you determine your clan affiliation? According to the Lord Lyon, "everyone who has the same surname of the chief is considered to be a member of the clan. Equally, a person who offers allegiance to the chief is a recognised member of the clan unless the chief decides that he will not accept that person's allegiance. There is no official list of recognized septs. This is a matter for each chief to determine. But where a particular sept has traditionally been associated with a particular clan, it would not be appropriate for that name to be treated by another chief as one of its septs."

Inside...

- President's Message
- Thistles and Ghillies Ceilidhs
- SAS Elections
- New Location for the Highland Games
- Celtic Community Picnic
- And lots more...

Scottish American
Society of Idaho
c/o Student Activities
Office
1910 University Dr.
Boise, Idaho 83725

Scottish American
Society of Idaho

The Scottish
American Society
of Idaho

Treasure Valley
Chapter:

John McDade,
President

Martin Janssen,
Vice-President

Sherrilyn Paris,
Secretary

Pam Rogers,
Treasurer

BSU Chapter:

Daniel Shull,
President

Message From the SAS President

By John McDade

What a wonderful spring we have had—I must say with all the rain we received, I felt right at home.

Armstrong is a great Scottish name. It was apparently given to a young fellow who plucked King Robert off the battlefield one-handed as he was unhorsed. That brings me to Lance Armstrong, cancer survivor, six-time winner of the Tour De France and an inspiration to millions, including yours truly. Since last July I have flinging my leg over a bike daily in order to improve my health, which brings me to the next part, we are in the process of forming the Caledonian Cycling Club.

We are planning some training rides so that we can take part in a charity ride organised by Blue Cross, in August. The distances are 15, 30, 50 and 100 miles. I am going to shoot for the 50, as I know its a ride I can do without too much trouble. If you are interested in joining the charity ride or fun rides just to get fit, give me a call at 331-

5675. In the next newsletter I will be hitting you up for some sponsorship cash—all the money goes to local children's charities.

I also need to make a plea for volunteers. As the Highland games grow, we are in need of more people to help with the running of the whole thing, so if you are interested in a unpaid job on a long day in September, enjoy cold beer and pizza, would like to hang with the wicked Tinkers the night before the games and receive a free games tee shirt in your size and choice of colour (so long as it's red), give me a call.

That brings me to the last thing, the positions of all the SAS officers are up for grabs this year, so if you would like to be President, Vice-President, Treasurer, or Secretary let us know so we can get your name on the ballot. Like all volunteer positions they are without thanks or

pay, but you get a title and the chance to talk more at meetings and the Presidents gets extra pickles with their sandwich!

—John



The Highland Games' New Location

Mark your calendar now so you won't miss the largest Scottish event in Idaho! The fifth annual Treasure Valley Celtic Festival and Highland Games will be held September 24th at the **Southern Idaho Fair Grounds**. Come enjoy the pipe bands, dancing, highland heavy athletic games, authentic cuisine, and pipe and dance competitions. Tickets go on sale in August. For more information contact Wee Bit O'Scotland at 331-5675.

Dawn Burns,
Editor
dajburns@att.net

How to Win Friends and Influence a Bunch of Rowdy Scots: SAS Elections

If you've ever wondered what it would be like to be a highly respected member of the Idaho Celtic community, lead a crack team of seasoned volunteers, and plan and execute an extremely influential community event, you should probably go somewhere else. However, if you might be interested in becoming a Scottish American Society officer, now's the time!

We will be electing a President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. If you would like to be placed on the ballot for any these positions contact John McDade at 331-5675 by July 15.

All nominees must give a brief accounting of themselves and their "qualifications" at the August 19 SAS meeting. Elections will be held at the Highland Games September 24.

Lots Happening This Spring and Summer

Can't wait for the Highland Games in September to show your Celtic pride? Luckily, there's a lot happening in the mean time. In addition to the Thistle and Ghillies Ceilidh in July and the Celtic Community Picnic in August, there are other Celtic events around the area this summer.

Look for the Boise Highlanders in the Boise Fourth of July parade downtown. The Highlanders will also be playing at the Athena Highland Games in Athena, Oregon July 16 and at Chief Joseph Days July 30 and 31.

Relax and enjoy a traditional tea with the Daughters of the British Empire on September 18, at the Boise Depot.

For more information call John _____ at 331-5675.

SAS Meetings



Experience the fun at Idaho Pizza on the corner of State and Glenwood at 7:00 PM (6:30 for dinner) on July 15, August 19, and August 26.

Mark Your Calendars Now...

- Boise Highlanders in the 4th of July Parade
- Thistle and Ghillies Ceilidh, July 23. Live music and Scottish dancing.
- Celtic Community Picnic, August 20
- Meet the Wicked Tinkers at the Kickoff Ceilidh Friday, September 23.
- Treasure Valley Celtic Festival & Highland Games Saturday, September 24 at the Southern Idaho Fair Grounds.

Dance the Night Away

The Thistle & Ghillies invite you to participate in several great evenings of music, song and dance in the very best of Scottish traditions. Come enjoy live music, learn some Scottish country dances led by the Thistle & Ghillies dancers, and of course, share great company.

Join in the festivities by bringing an instrument or a wee skit to share. Snacks will be served at 8 pm. No-host bar.

The ceilidhs will all be held from 7 pm 'til midnight at the Plantation Country Club, 6515 West State Street in Boise.

Tickets will only be sold in advance and prices vary depending on the event. Tickets are available at Wee Bit of Scotland, 4501 Emerald Street, Boise 331-5675, or Owyhee Mountain

Fiddle Shop, 4211 Sunny Ridge Road, Nampa 466-3633.

- July 23 Thistles & Ghillies Ceilidh
- Sept 23 Wicked Tinkers Kickoff Ceilidh
- Nov 26 St. Andrew's Night Dinner/Dance

For more information, call Cheri Nelson at 375-4217.

Celtic Community Picnic

Join us for the fourth annual Celtic Community Picnic August 20 at Quarry View Park off of Warm Springs Ave. The fun starts at 4:00 pm. The picnic is a joint event of all the local Celtic societies, and provides an opportunity for anyone interested in the Irish, Welsh, Scottish, and Caledonia Societies to gather for fun and festivities. There will be Irish and Scottish music, games and more. Come prepared to share a musical piece or skit.

This is an informal potluck—bring your own main dish and a side dish to share. Everyone is welcome! For more information call 331-5675.

Congrats Corner

New President for BSU SAS

Congratulations to Daniel Shull, the new President of the BSU chapter of the SAS.

Eagle Scout

Congratulations to Scott Rowley for earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

Clan Tents At The Games

Time for folks interested in hosting a clan tent at the Highland Games, September 24, to register.

Call Dan Ferguson for details at 884-7031.

Thank You

Contributors for this issue:

Cheri Nelson
John McDade
Sherrilyn Paris

Don't Miss Out!
Renew OR Join
Today

Renewals are due July 1st

SAS members enjoy:

- Substantial membership discounts on SAS sponsored events.
- Quarterly newsletters that are the local source for area Celtic news, history, recipes, and more.
- Calendar of local Celtic performances and events.
- Opportunities to share their heritage as a part of the Celtic community.

Scottish American Society New Membership/Renewal Form

Music, Highland Games and More! Join us and celebrate Scottish and Celtic heritage.
Your support and participation are appreciated.

(check one) Treasure Valley Chapter Boise State University Chapter
(check one) New Member or Renewing Member

Last Name: _____ Date: _____
First Name: _____ Spouse: _____
Children: _____
Clan Affiliation (optional): _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Home Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____
Email address: _____

Select membership type (check one)

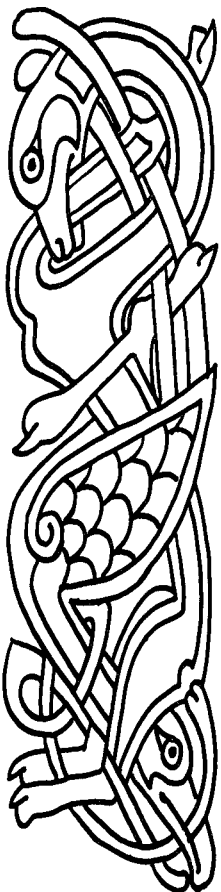
Individual Membership \$20/year Student Membership \$10/year
 Family Membership \$30/year

Note: Annual renewal date is July 1. All memberships January to July are at 1/2 rate.

I am interested in helping with:

Membership Graphic Arts Sponsorship
 Highland Games Concerts Mail/Phone Contact
 Media Ceilidhs Other

Please return this form with payment to: Scottish American Society of Idaho, c/o Student Activities Office, 1910 University Drive, Boise ID 83725.



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of Idaho

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