



The Saint Andrews Society of Maine is proud to announce
Clan Donnachaidh Society



(Duncan - Reid - Robertson)

as the Honored Clan for the

2019 Maine Highland Games and Scottish Festival

**** SAVE THE DATE ****

Saturday, August 17, 2019

8:00 am - 5:00 pm at the Topsham Fairgrounds in Topsham, Maine
Note: Friday, August 16th @ 6:30 pm is our annual Cèilidh, free and open to all.
Come celebrate your heritage with us!

For more information, contact George Newell, SASME Clan Secretary (gen81465@yahoo.com)

As stated by the eminent historian, William F. Skene in 1837, "The Robertsons of Struan are unquestionably the oldest family in Scotland, being the sole remaining branch of that Royal House of Atoll 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 eleven tribes in the northern Pictish nation. They inhabited the area now known as Atholl in Perthshire. They were the only race in Europe that could not be 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 (of Shakespearean fame). 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 known as 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, or Duncan the Stout (stout in battle rather than in belly), a famous fighter and strong supporter of Robert the Bruce. He commanded a force of 2,000 at the famous Battle of Bannockburn, June, 24, 1314, along-side the Bruce, against the army of Edward II.

The Robertson crest badge of a dexter hand holding an imperial crown was awarded by King James II to honor our fourth Chief Robert Ruabh Duncanson (the Grizzled) on August 15, 1451 as a reward for capturing the assassins of King James I in 1437. It is from this Chief that his descendants and many of his clan folk took the name "Robert's sons" or Robertson. His lands were erected into the free feudal barony of Struan at this time and he was given the Clan motto "Virtutis Gloria Merces" which means "Glory is the Reward of Valour". Prior to this Crown charter, the clan lands were held as vassals of the Earls of Atoll. As a result, the Clan Crest portrays a dexter hand supporting an imperial crown. With the exception of royalty, no one else in Europe is permitted to display an imperial crown as a crest. The Clan plant badges are the bracken fern and fine leaved heath, which are common in the clan territory on the southern side of Loch Rannoch. The Clan war cry "Garg'n Uair Dhuisgear" is Gaelic for "Fierce when Roused". This war cry relates back to the Chief's coat of arms of three silver wolf heads on a blood red shield supported by a serpent and a dove. These supporters identify the origin of the clan as being descendants of Saint Columba. In Scots heraldry, the dove or columba signifies descent from this Saint. Crinan's, the Abbot of Dunkeld, descent from Saint Columba is recognized on the counter-seal of Dunkeld Cathedral, which shows Saint Columba enthroned on two wolves. King Alexander III's privy seal also contains the serpent and dove supporters with the proverb "be wise as the serpent and gentle as the dove."