



NORTH COUNTY SCOTS

Newsletter

December 2011



Volume 7

Issue 12

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President's Message

Thanks to all those who attended our Holiday Party. We had a great time with Santa bringing gifts to the children and the teen and adult gift exchange.

Our Burns Dinner is next month on Saturday, January 21, 2012, with cocktails beginning at 5 pm and dinner starting at 6. The entertainment will be provided by Highland Way. Please see the RSVP form in this newsletter.



Mike Hamnquist

Boxing Day

Origins: The reason that the December 26th was known as 'Boxing Day' was the fact that many centuries ago, the Lord and Lady of the manor/castle/estate gathered together at the manor house, castle etc., the workers including those from the outlying fields, forests and streams, the day after Christmas Day and organised the distribution of the annual necessities, done according to the status of the worker and the size of the family.

Into boxes and barrels would go supplies of cloth spun by the spinsters, the cobblers leather goods, new tools and supplies of salt and spices. Also dried goods such as meat, fish, vegetables and some fruit and cereals grown on the estate for bread making. This the giving out of such boxes became "Boxing Day".

Sweetie Scone Day: Also it was that Boxing Day was in some parts of Scotland was known as 'Sweetie Scone' Day. As part of the Festive Fayre in humble hooses, the cottage gudebread included 'sweetie-skons' (Sweetie Scones), which contained dried fruit and spices, and were the forerunner of our modern "Currant Loaf". The ingredients more than likely given by the Lord or Lady of the estate, as there were few homes that could afford such luxury of dried fruit and spices, but friendly neighbours would make up the deficit to those that could not afford, nor had the ingredients. So it was the custom that either the Lord / Lady of the estate, to their workers, would invite them to sample or to give the 'sweetie-skons' or that neighbours would invite neighbours to sample or give the 'Sweetie Scone' to others.

Boxing Day Today: Nowadays though, cannie Scots often wait till Boxing Day before the purchase of items of high cost, for nothing worse than to have bought before the 25th to find the price much reduced after then!

But, although called 'Boxing Day' the 26th had nothing to do with the contest of sparring, when I espy some of the lassies almost coming to blows with each other when a 'sale bargain' in the last of its number, and more wishing that article than hangs on a rack, then maybe the name for the after Christmas Day was well enough named....

From: http://www.rampantscotland.com/know/blknow_boxing.htm

This feature on Boxing Day in Scotland was contributed by Huntingtower (a name associated with a castle near Perth).

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MISSION STATEMENT

Dedicated to all things Scottish

The stated goal of the North County Scots, as a non-profit organization, is to sponsor Scottish oriented youth activities and find pleasure in activities with other Scottish Associations and friends.

*Year lists term of officer.

Tartan of the Month

- Urquhart



This name originated from a place name "Airchart" on the northwest shore of Loch Ness (in the area in which Urquhart Castle is now located, although the Urquharts only occupied it briefly). The name was recorded as far back as the days of St. Columba in the 6th century. Translated from Gaelic, it means "by a rowan wood" or "a fort on a knoll." In old Scots spelling, "quh" represented "ch" as in "loch", hence the pronunciation sounding like "Urchart".

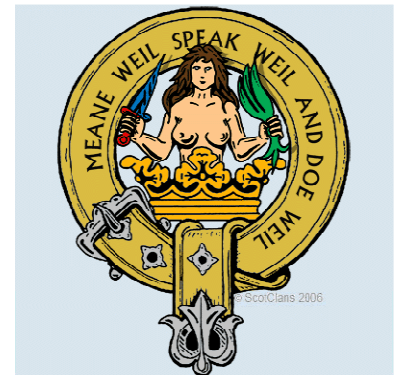
William de Urchart supported William Wallace and defended Cromarty (north of Inverness) against the English and supported Robert the Bruce. The Urquharts were rewarded by becoming hereditary sheriffs of Cromarty in the reign of David II, son of Robert the Bruce. Other Urquharts became established in Moray and in Aberdeenshire.

In the 16th century, Thomas Urquhart of Cromarty is reputed to have had 25 sons, 7 of whom were killed at the Battle of Pinkie in 1547 when it is estimated that 15,000 Scots were killed, 1500 captured and English losses amounted to only 500.

John Urquhart, the grandson of Thomas (above) translated the works of the French poet, Rabelais and still had time to fight at the battle of Worcester in 1651 in support of King Charles I. John died in 1660 - supposedly from laughing so much at the restoration of the monarchy when Charles II regained the throne.

The Urquharts participated in the Jacobite Uprising of 1715 and the clan chief died at the Battle of Sheriffmuir. The line of the Urquharts of Cromarty died out in the 18th century but the chief of the clan Urquhart was re-established in 1959 when Wilkins Urquhart, descended from an Urquhart who emigrated to America in the 18th century, established his rights with the Lord Lyon. The seat of the clan is Castle Craig on the Cromarty Firth. It was presented to the 25th clan chief by Major Iain Shaw of Tordarroch - the Shaws had been a neighbouring clan of the Urquharts in earlier times.

The Urquhart clan motto is "Meane weil, speak weil and do weil" which means "Mean well, speak well and do well".



From: <http://www.rampantscotland.com/clans/blclanurquhart.htm>

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Traditional Scottish Recipes

- Currant Loaf

Ingredients:

- 1 cup mixed dried fruit
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 cup cold strained tea
- 2 cups self raising flour



Method:

- 1 Place in a bowl 1 cup of dried mixed fruit, sugar and 1 cup cold strained tea.
- 2 Leave this mixture for 1 to 3 hours so that the fruit will become plump.
- 3 Stirring the fruit occasionally to ensure all the fruit is coated with the tea and sugar mixture.
- 4 Add the self raising flour slowly, but mix the flour in thoroughly. The cake mixture will look like gravel.
- 5 Pour into a well greased loaf tin.
- 6 Cook in a moderate oven for approximately 45 to 60 minutes.
- 7 Turn onto a wire rack to cool.

From: <http://www.food.com/recipe/currant-loaf-27799>

Rabbie Burns Supper

January 21, 2012

5 pm – 6 pm Cocktails; 6 pm – 7:30 pm Dinner
7:30 pm - Program and Entertainment by Highland Way
Rancho Carlsbad Recreational Center
5200 El Camino Real, Carlsbad

Tickets \$40 (Seats are limited; please RSVP by January 16, 2012.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Number of tickets: _____ Beef _____ Chicken _____ Fish _____ Vegetarian

Please mail in reservations to: North County Scots
P O Box 1953
Vista, CA 92085-1953



Thank you!


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