

Barre History Collection

**Clan Gordon No. 12
Records, 1884-1977
BHC 55-66, 453F-454F**

Volume: 5.3 linear feet
Inclusive dates: 1884-1977
Record types: Correspondence, Financial Records, Minutes, Newsclippings,
Photographs, and Printed Material

History

The Order of Scottish Clans was founded in Saint Louis Missouri on November 30, 1878, by Scottish immigrants to the United States. The organization's purpose as outlined in its Articles of Association has six objects: 1) To unite Scotchmen and descendants of Scotchmen of good moral character, from 18 years and upwards; 2) To establish a fund for the relief of sick members, and to ameliorate their condition in every reasonable manner; 3) To bequeath to widows and orphans of deceased members a sum of money, as its laws may prescribe, and to attend to the burying of the dead; 4) To cultivate fond recollections of Scotland, its customs and amusements; 5) To be free from all political and theological sectarianism; 6) To be subject to the laws of God and of the land in which we live.

The subordinate Clan Gordon No. 12 was chartered on May 23, 1884, the twelfth subordinate clan in the nation. John R. Dowers from Clan McGregor No. 5 of Quincy, Massachusetts, and A.J. Stephens of Clan Farquharson No. 8 of Groton, Vermont, helped to found Clan Gordon No. 12 and both transferred their membership to the Barre organization. Many of the members worked in Barre's granite industry.

Clan Gordon No. 12 was incorporated on November 2, 1902, by which time it was well established as a health and life insurance provider for Clan members. It also acted as sponsor to many cultural events such as dances, concerts, and athletic events, which culminated each year with a picnic in Caledonia Park. As well, the Clan supported several subordinate organizations, such as the Clan Gordon Quoting Club, the Barre Bagpipe and Drum Band, and the Junior Clan. In 1898 a Ladies Auxiliary was officially established though the Ladies of Clan Gordon were as active as early as 1886.

The Clan's membership was at its height at the turn of the century and it remained active through the 1940s. From 1948 the meetings were frequently canceled due to small attendance and the last member was initiated on June 18, 1953. On July 22, 1972, the Order of Scottish Clans was officially merged into the Independent Order of Foresters and became the Order of Scottish Clans High Court, I.O.F. This merger had little effect on Clan Gordon No. 12 which disbanded in 1981 after years of inactivity.

Scope and Content

The Clan Gordon No. 12 Records spans the years 1884-1977. The bulk of the collection was donated by David McLeod and Edward Melvin. The collection documents the administrative and financial life of the Clan from its founding through its decline in the 1960s and 1970s, and includes such organizational records as minutes, dues, rollbooks, auditor's reports, and treasurer's account books, though there are gaps. The gaps are particularly evident after the 1940s when the Clan's record keeping practices lapsed. Though much correspondence is discussed in the minutes, the collection contains only a very small folder of correspondence. Other items in the collection include records of the Barre Scottish Bagpipe and Drum Band, and a photograph collection that includes images relating to Clan activities.

The collection is organized in four series: I. Organizational Records, 1884-1973; II. Financial Records, 1910-1971; III. Miscellaneous Documents, 1905-1977; IV. Oversize Material, 1900-1953.

The collection is open for use without restrictions.

Related Collections

Clan Gordon No. 12 Ladies Auxiliary Collection (BHC 67-70)
Photograph of Quoiting Team (BHC Ph XL 232)
Museum Artifacts

Inventory

Series I: Organizational Records

- BHC 55:01 Founding documents, 1884-1903
- 02 Secretary's notes
- 03 Correspondence, general, 1905-1055, n.d.
- 04 _____, Dues and assessments, 1933
- 05 Membership cards, A-C
- 06 _____, D-K
- 07 _____, L-M
- 08 _____, N-W
- 09 Beneficiary documents, 1916, 1959
- 10 Sick list, 1961-1964
- BHC 56:01 Roll Book, 1884-1900
- 02 Roll Book/sick list, 1884-1897
- 03 _____, 1897-1907
- 04 _____, 1907-1958
- BHC 57:01 Minutes, 1884-1888
- 02 _____, 1888-1894
- 03 _____, 1894-1900
- 04 _____, 1900-1906

- 05 _____, 1907-1912
- BHC 58:01 _____, 1912-1920
- 02 _____, 1920-1935
- BHC 59:01 _____, 1935-1946
- 02 _____, 1946-1973

Series II: Financial Records

- BHC 60:01 Dues and assessments, 1910-1916
- BHC 61:01 _____, 1917-1922
- BHC 62:01 _____, 1922-1936
- BHC 63:01 _____, 1944-1954
- BHC 64:01 Auditor's reports, 1912-1914
 - 02 _____, 1915-1917
 - 03 _____, 1918-1920
 - 04 _____, 1921-1923
 - 05 _____, 1924-1926
 - 06 _____, 1927-1929
 - 07 _____, 1930-1933
 - 08 _____, 1934-1940
 - 09 _____, 1941-1948
 - 10 _____, 1949-1960
- BHC 65:01 Treasurer's account book, 1884-1892
 - 02 _____, 1892-1900
 - 03 _____, 1970-1971
 - 04 Quarterly reports, O.S.C., 1912-1914
 - 05 Barre Scottish Bagpipe & Drum Band account book, 1917-1934
 - 06 Junior clan, 1925-1932
 - 07 Miscellaneous, 1913-1969, n.d.

Series III: Miscellaneous Documents

- BHC 66:01 Barre Scottish Bagpipe & Drum Band minutes, 1917-1934
 - 02 News clippings, 1905-1975
 - 03 Printed material, 1939-1975
 - 04 Photographs
 - 05 Copy photographs (photocopies)
 - 06 Miscellaneous, 1920-1977, n.d.
 - 07 60th Anniversary, 1944 (Includes history of the organization)

Series IV: Oversize Material

- BHC 453F:01 Appointment certificate, 1947
 - 02 Bequeathment fund certificates, 1912-1927
 - 03 Register and rollbook, 1900-1953

- BHC 454F:01 Photographs
Size C Portrait of Undisclosed Man in Tartan
Roll of Honor, Members of Clan Gordon No. 12 O.S.C. who served with
the colors in the World War in defense of Liberty. 1914-1919
Roll of Honor, Clan Gordon No. 12, O.S.C. (copy)
“Gathering of the Clans,” print with examples of 29 tartans
Past Chiefs of Clan Gordon, No. 12. O. S. C. James Hogg, William Hurry,
Robert J. Stewart, Charles Leel, Williams Black, John Stewart, James
R. Coutts, James MacKay, James McDonald, James Paterson, Barre,
Vermont, 1922.
Past Chiefs of Clan Gordon No. 12, O. S. C. William P. Imlach, William
B. Scott, John L. Black, John Knox, James Strachan, William Black,
William Hurry, James McLeod, Reginald H. MacDonald, Barre,
Vermont. 1944
Charter from the Order of Scottish Clans, May 23, 1884, signed by George
Bain, Royal Chief

Revised July 30, 2018