

ROBERTSON'S RANT

The Newsletter of the Clan Donnachaidh Society—Mid-Atlantic Branch



CAMERONS IN THE ATHOLL BRIGADE

By Jim Fargo, FSA Scot

In the early 18th century, a settlement or 'clachan', of 20-30 Cameron households lived with the consent of our chief on the southern shore of Loch Rannoch about mid-way down the Loch. This settlement, known as Camghouran, was located west of Dall House. These Camerons had migrated from the Ben Nevis area in Lochaber to seek good pasture land for their livestock and presumably to get away from the constant depredations of Clan MacIntosh, their traditional enemies.

As tenants on Alexander's lands (our 13th chief), the Camerons acknowledged our chief as their landlord and provided military service when required, although they rightfully recognized Lochiel as their clan chief. Another 500 of our clansmen lived on the Duke of Atholl's lands and they joined the other Athollmen led by Lord George Murray.

In 1745, Alexander raised 150 men from his estate and placed them under the command of his cousin, Donald Robertson of Woodsheal, to fight for Bonnie Prince Charlie. When Lord George Murray led all the Athollmen to Culloden, Alexander was reportedly said to have given permission to these two dozen Cameron tenants to fight under Lochiel's banner if they so wished.

After Culloden, with the stationing of government troops at the newly built Rannoch Barracks at the west end of Loch Rannoch, these Cameron tenants provided a early warning buffer to our Chief so he could escape from his home at Carie into the Black Woods when necessary to avoid being captured.

An interesting tale of clan conflict involved a Ewan Cameron who married a MacGregor lassie who had also been courted by a MacIntosh. Eventually, this jealous MacIntosh led his men to Loch Rannoch to kill Ewan and abduct his wife. After killing three of her children by bashing their heads against a large rock and threatening to kill the fourth and last child, she agreed to leave her husband and go with him. Ewan and the other men from the settlement arrived in time and after a fierce fight, all the MacIntosh raiders were killed but their leader escaped and returned to his castle at Loy. Unfortunately, during the pursuit Ewan was killed.

Rather than involve Alexander in their search for revenge, Ewan's brother William journeyed to Lochaber to see their clan chief. Lochiel mustered a large force of Camerons and they attacked the MacIntosh castle. After killing the defenders and MacIntosh, they burned the castle to the ground. The Camerons left, taking with them all the livestock and herding them back to Loch Rannoch.

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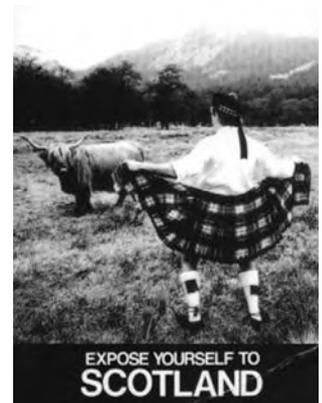
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CAMERONS IN THE ATHOLL BRIGADE (CONTINUED)

In 1778, the fourth child, Iain Cameron, was reported to have owned 8 horses, 36 cows and 350 sheep on his farm, many of which may have originated from this raid.

In the 1850s, the Camerons were forcefully evicted from their homes by the new owner of the former Struan land to make way for sheep. The only remaining remnant of their settlement is the Saint Michael's Graveyard where many of those Camerons are buried.



Battlefield Monument, Culloden Moor, Inverness—August 2003 (photo by Norman Dunkinson)

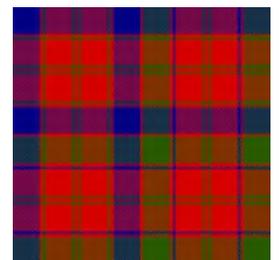
Reference:

Cunningham, A.D., "Tales of Rannoch", Perth, 1989, pp. 11-14.

ARE YOU A DESCENDANT OF NATHAN ROBERTSON? I AM TOO!

Advertisement by James Ward, Clan Donnachaidh Society—Upper-Mid-West Branch

A family tree prepared by a family member shows the founder as a resident of Montgomery County, Maryland, but it gives no reference on his origin in Scotland. I have been looking for a number of years. Could you share with me any originating point of departure from Scotland? He was a prominent Methodist, and he and his sons built the first log cabin chapel in Southern Indiana, which was moved to DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana. It is now relocated in South Indiana. James Robertson Ward, jrobward@wowway.com.



TWO GENERATIONS OF DONNACHAIDH ENGINEERS

By Norman Dunkinson

The Dunkinsons of York County, Pennsylvania, boasted two generations of engineers. James Elliott Cook Dunkinson, my great-great-grandfather, worked at the Hanover Foundry and Machine Company in Hanover in the mid-1890s, and at the Pullman Motor Car Company in York in the early 1900s. Family tradition has it that he oversaw the placement of the High Water Mark Monument on the Gettysburg Battlefield in June 1892. He died on September 18, 1910, of an injury sustained while working at the Pullman plant, as noted in one of many newspaper obituaries: "Cook Dunkinson, well known in this place, died in the York Hospital on Sunday...He had been employed by the Pullman Motor Car Co., of York, and on Monday of last week, a large lathe fell on him and a piece of steel four inches in length imbedded in his back near the spine. He was at once removed to the hospital, lingering until Sunday. His home was in Hanover where he returned every Saturday evening. He leaves a wife and three children, Norman, Carrie and Lillian." He was 51 years old at the time of his death.

Cook's son Norman, my great-grandfather, was both an engineer and inventor. He lived in Indianapolis, Indiana, during World War I, working on the design of synchronization gear to allow machine gun fire through the blades of airplane propellers. While he did manage to patent a universal joint in 1919 (see diagram), tradition again has it that he was the stereotypical absent-minded intellectual, who, had he patented his many inventions, may have ended up a rich man.

His closest approach to fame was the Hanover Car. The Hanover Motor Car Company was established in 1921 by Barnes "Bull" Kintzig, who brought in Ernest Gilliard to design the electrical lighting system, and Norman Dunkinson, both former Pullman Motor Car Company employees, to "design and oversee the building of the Hanover Car." The car was exceptionally light-weight, at only 800 pounds compared to the average car weight of the time of 2,000 pounds and had a "two cylinder 'V' type engine with piston displacement of 77 cubic inches, developing between 12 and 15 horsepower. The Hanover car was essentially a two-seater runabout or roadster with a top speed of about 45 miles per hour." The advertised price of the car was \$295. "Records indicate that 133 automobiles were sold in 1921 and by June of 1922 the cumulative total was only 158." Unfortunately, engineering problems combined with competition

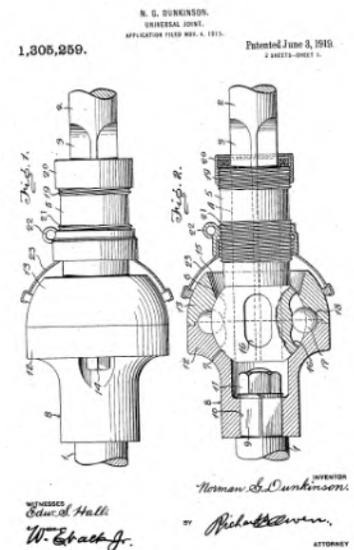
from the likes of Ford forced the Hanover Motor Car Company out of business in 1927. Only a few Hanover Cars are known to exist today, one of which (pictured at left) is located in the Agricultural and Industrial Museum in York, Pennsylvania.

Norman was last employed as a draftsman with the Read Machinery Company of York. He died on Christmas Eve, 1946, at the age of 61.

References:

Freed, T. and Rosenmiller, W., *Pictorial History of Pleasure and Commercial Vehicles Manufactured in York County, Pennsylvania, York, 1977, pp. 93-100.*

Gettysburg Compiler, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, 21 Sept. 1910.



ROBERTSON'S RANT

CHIEFTANS OF THE CLAN

By Jim Fargo, FSA Scot

The clan system was a patriarchal system. The chief was and is the head of the clan. Under the chief, were the chief's near relatives and cadet branches led by 'chieftains'. They were usually descendants of younger sons from the chiefly line and were the heads of a territorial house or estate. The term 'chieftain' is really both a hereditary and a territorial title and so Robertson "of Blank" was a chieftain within the clan. They formed an advisory council that the chief would call upon for advice and assistance as needed and were instrumental in the management of clan activities.

The glory of the Chief was the glory of the clan. Chieftains and lairds took great pride in the number of men their self governing agricultural estates could support and the health and fitness of their families. One of their main duties was to call up their tenants and tack men from their estate for military service when needed. This would include "broken men" from other clans that resided on clan lands and were dependant on the protection of the clan. In July 1689 when young Alexander (our 13th chief) heard that Dundee and a Jacobite army had arrived at Blair Castle he was all for heading there from Struan with a handful of followers. Before he did, Robertson of Calvine advised his young chief, to "...delay your journey with credit a day or two till all the country men be ready to march along with you; for we know that your men will not allow the command of half of the country men to none but to you." Thus delayed, the clansmen mobilized (then about 600 men) and arrived at the pass of Killiecrankie the day after the battle. Dundee was killed along with about 900 highlanders while General Mackay's army was routed and lost more than 2,000 men. Alexander and our clansmen were then tasked by Dundee's second-in-command, General Cannon, to harry the fleeing enemy back to Dunkeld.



Mercat Cross, Dunkeld, Perth-August 2003 (photo by Norman Dunkinson)

By Scots Law, the proprietor of an estate is entitled to add the name of his property to his surname, thus being known as 'Blank' of 'Blank'. Our chief is named Robertson of Struan as are many of our cadet family branches such as Robertson of Auchleeks, Trinafour, etc. Matriculation of arms is under the jurisdiction of the Lord Lyon King of Arms. Chieftains without a title of nobility are addressed as Lairds and are also known by the names of their estates.

Marriage alliances between neighboring lairds helped to solidify the bonds between the Clan Donnachaidh and adjoining families of Stewarts, Camerons, etc. and blended the Atholl manpower into a united force for cattle reiving and the later Jacobite 'Risings'.

Postscript: From a clan perspective, Robertson of Calvine made the right decision and many of our clansmen lived to see another day.

References:

Cameron, Nancy Foy. "What Really Happened at Killiecrankie", 1998, pp. 8-9.

Innes of Learney, Sir Thomas, "The Tartans of the Clans and Families of Scotland", Edinburgh, 1958, pp. -61.

Reid, J. Robertson, "A Short History of the Clan Robertson", Stirling, 1933, 129-130.

CEUD MILE FAILTE (100,000 WELCOMES)!

We'd like to welcome the following 4 returning members who renewed since the last report:

Leslie Haas

Karen Layne

Carol Lucian

Diane Smith

ROYAL HOUSE OF DUNKELD

By Jim Fargo, FSA Scot

On the death of King Malcolm II in 1034, his grandson Duncan became King of Scots. King Duncan I was the first king of the new Royal House of Dunkeld. Duncan was the son of Malcolm II's daughter Bethoc and Crinan, the hereditary secular Abbot of Dunkeld and Mormaer of the Pictish kingdom of Atholl.

Celtic succession was decided by tanistry. Under this system, any mature male of the royal kindred was eligible for kingship. Unfortunately the warring ambitions of royal kinsmen often led to recurring bloodshed. Thus we had King Duncan slain in battle during 1040 by his cousin Macbeth. Macbeth ruled for seventeen years until 1057. Macbeth also killed Duncan's father Crinan in a battle at Dunkeld in 1045 when Crinan attempted to put his grandson Malcolm on the throne. When Malcolm arrived back in Scotland with an English army he slew Macbeth and then later his son Lulach and ruled from 1058-1093 as Malcolm III (Canmore).

Then events became more complicated. Malcolm Canmore had two sons from his first marriage (Duncan and Malcolm) and six sons from his second marriage to Princess Margaret of England (later Saint Margaret). The dynastic struggle began after Malcolm Canmore and his eldest son from his second marriage (Edward) were killed at the battle of Alnwick in November 1093. Duncan, eldest son of the first marriage claimed the throne as Duncan II and ruled for six months from May until he was killed in November 1094.

At the age of about 60, Donald Ban, brother of Malcolm Canmore claimed the throne as King Donald III and co-ruled with his acknowledged heir young nephew Edmund (second son from second marriage) for three years (1095-1097). The third son, Ethelred, had been made the Abbot of Dunkeld as it was the custom of the Celtic church to choose its abbots from the founder's kin just as his great-grandfather Crinan had been abbot.

Edgar, fourth son from Malcolm Canmore's second marriage with the support of King Henry of England, came north with an English army and deposed the co-rulers and was crowned as King Edgar in the autumn of 1097. Edmund was allowed to become a monk while Donald was captured in 1099, blinded and imprisoned for the rest of his life. From King Edgar onward, royal succession was decided by primogeniture.

Additional articles will follow in future issues providing a general overview of events during the reigns of these kings beginning with King Edgar in 1097. The Royal House of Dunkeld ended with the death of Alexander III's daughter Margaret, the Maid of Norway, in 1290. Woven within these articles are known facts (mainly witnessed charters) about the ancestors of our chiefly line through the three Celtic earls of Atholl.



Moot Hill, Scone, Perth-August 2003 (photo by Norman Dunkinson)



**CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY
MID-ATLANTIC BRANCH**

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The Clan Donnachaidh Society is a world-wide organization dedicated to the preservation of our Highland heritage. Membership is open to those persons bearing recognized sept surnames and their descendants and spouses.

Membership in the parent Clan Donnachaidh Society in Scotland includes a subscription to the Clan Donnachaidh Annual.

Membership in the Mid-Atlantic Branch of the Clan Donnachaidh Society includes a subscription to the Branch newsletter, Robertson's Rant, published quarterly and containing listings of Highland Games and Celtic Festivals throughout the Mid-Atlantic region, Game and Festival reports, historical and biographical articles, and news items of interest to Donnachaidhs everywhere. Membership also includes an open invitation to join your fellow society members at the Clan Donnachaidh Tent and Diner at numerous Games and Festivals, and at other activities including the annual Scottish Christmas Walk and Clan Donnachaidh luncheon in the Old Town section of Alexandria, Virginia, in early December.

Parent Society membership dues are \$25.00 per year (individual) and \$35.00 per year (family = two persons/same address). Mid-Atlantic Branch membership dues are \$20.00 per year (individual).

CELTIC EVENTS AND GAMES—2019 (1ST HALF OF GAMES SEASON)

<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
Southern Maryland Celtic Festival	St. Leonard, MD	Apr 27th
Colonial Highland Gathering	Fair Hill, MD	May 18th
Garrett County Celtic Festival	Friendsville, MD	Jun 1st
Cumberland Valley Scottish Games	Shippensburg, PA	Jun 8th
Celtic Fling & Highland Games	Manheim, PA	Jun 22nd-23rd
Jersey Shore Piping and Drumming Classic	Toms River, NJ	Jul 13th
Adams County Irish Festival	Gettysburg, PA	Jul 20th
Green Hill Highland Games	Salem, VA	Aug 24th
McLain Celtic Festival	Carlisle, PA	Aug 31st-Sep 1st
Virginia Scottish Games & Festival	The Plains, VA	Aug 31st-Sep 1st