

MY ANCESTRY

By

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Done

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(Wofford College, 1906; University of North Carolina, 1928)

Author of Asheville and Buncombe County, Descent of the Scottish Alexanders,
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Families; Sondley, Crawford, Alexander, Davidson,
Cunningham, Forster, Heath, Young, Sams,
Somerville, Ware, Stuart

"Ne falsi quid audeat; ne veri quid non audeat."

*"Honeste vivere, alterum non laedere, suum cuique
tribuere."*—JUSTINIAN.

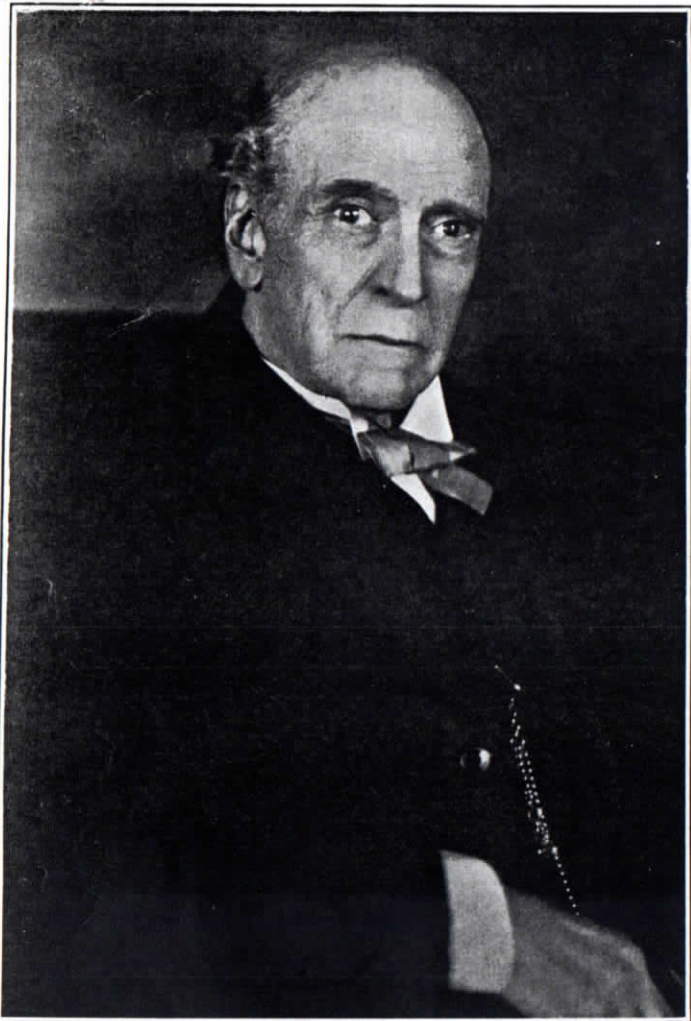
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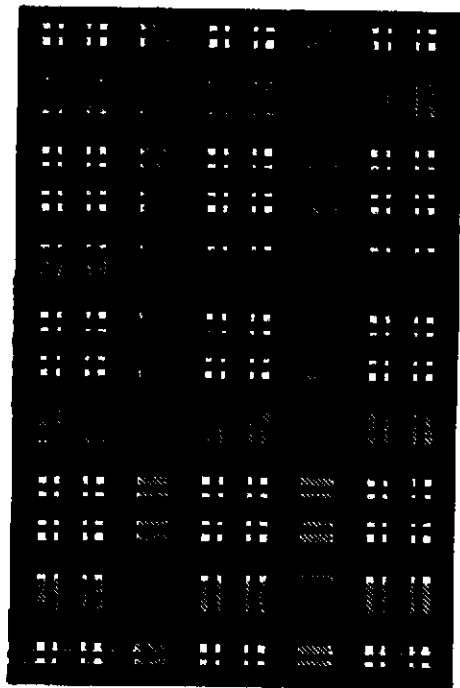
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CLAN MACDONALD



MACDONALD OF THE ISLES

ALEXANDER

The name Alexander is of Grecian origin and means "Protector or Helper of Men." The corresponding female names are, in the Greek language in Latin form Alexandra, with the same meaning, and Ophelia, meaning "Help-giver," and in the Teutonic languages, Ethelgift and Elgiva, meaning "noble help-giver."¹ Probably no other name in so nearly the same form has ever been used by so many nations or spoken in so many languages as Alexander. It had its origin in the remote ages of Greek fable and played a conspicuous part in the world's first poetry. In the early day there stood near the shores of the Aegean Sea not far from the Hellespont the famous town of Troy or Ilium, whose siege and destruction are the theme of Homer's greatest poem when he sang the wrath of Achilles. Its mighty ruler, Priam, reigned there, a king of men and a companion of the deities. To one of his numerous sons it was given to determine the superior claim of beauty among the three most powerful of the female gods and to receive from Aphrodite as a reward for his decision in her favor the fairest woman of the time. The gift became the cause of his own death and of the destruction of his country, but not until he had slain the Grecian bully, Achilles. This was Alexander, better known, it may be, by his other appellation of Paris. The name of Alexander became a favorite one among the Greeks, and was bestowed upon him who proved to be the greatest military genius of all time, Alexander the Great. It has been borne by a Roman emperor, by eight Popes of the Catholic church, by kings of Scotland, kings of Epirus, kings of Macedonia, kings of Syria, kings of Aegypt, kings of the Jews, czars of Russia, and princes of smaller states of Europe. In Scotland the earls of Ross, of Selkirk, and of Stirling were

¹ Moody's "What Is Your Name?", 1863, 251-252.

Alexanders. In Ireland the earls of Caledon are Alexanders. There are Alexanders in France, Italy, Germany, Spain, Russia, Greece, England, Scotland, and Ireland. Probably no civilized people can be found among whom the name does not appear. It has been borne by soldiers, statesmen, lawyers, poets, theologians, diplomats, astronomers, writers, travellers, scholars, physicians, scientists, bishops, merchants, manufacturers, seamen, and explorers and inventors. Its contraction, Sandy, has become the common name for a Scotchman as Pat is for an Irishman.

"Sawney, or Sandy, a Scotchman; corruption of Alexander."² "Taffy (corruption of David), a Welshman. Compare Sawney (from Alexander), a Scotchman; Paddy (from Patrick), an Irishman; and Johnny (from John Bull), an Englishman."³ "Paddy, Pat, or Paddy Whack, an Irishman. A nickname of Patrick."⁴

"I am no more Jockey, sir, than you are John," said the stranger, as if offended at being addressed by a name, which at that time was used, as Sawney now is, for a general appellation of the Scottish nation."⁵

Speaking of the Province of Badashan in Arabia or Persia, Marco Polo, ch. 29, says: "All those of the royal blood are descended from King Alexander and the daughter of King Darius who was Lord of the vast empire of Persia. And all these kings call themselves in the Saracen tongue *Zulcarniain*, which is as much as to say *Alexander*;" and this out of regard for Alexander the Great."⁶

In 1411, Donald, Lord of the Isles, claimed the earldom of Ross in Scotland, but was opposed in that claim by the Scottish governor, the Duke of Albany. At the head of a large body of his fellow Highlanders, Donald marched

² Slang Dictionary, London, Chatto and Windus, 1898, 278.

³ Ibid., 317-318.

⁴ Ibid., 245.

⁵ Sir Walter Scott, *The Fortunes of Nigel*, ch. 2.

⁶ *Travels of Marco Polo*, H. Yules ed., 1903, p. 157.

down from the mountains into Aberdeenshire and in the famous Battle of Harlaw defeated the royal army of Scotland under the command of Alexander Stuart, Earl of Mar, son of Alexander of Badenoch and grandson of the Scottish King, Robert II. He was forced to retreat, however, and afterwards entered into a treaty with the king by which he relinquished his claim to that earldom. The Battle of Harlaw was the death-struggle for supremacy between Teuton and Celt. The Gael won the fight, but its results inured to the Saxon. From this Donald, Lord of the Isles, grandson of Robert II, and son of his daughter, Margaret Stuart, through Donald's son and successor, Alaster, or Alexander, Macdonald (son of Donald), the Scottish family of Alexanders claim descent; thus tracing their lineage to the Bruce of Bannockburn.

Alexander Macdonald, son of Donald, Lord of the Isles, lived in 1429.⁷ For a discussion of the descent of

⁷ T. Smibert's *Clans of the Highlands of Scotland*, 1850, 22.

the Scottish Alexander (Clan Macalastair) see 1 George Eyre-Todd's *Highland Clans of Scotland*, 1923, 205-207, in which it is said: "From their descent as legitimate heirs male of the forfeited Alexander of the Isles, the Mac Alastairs may claim to be the actual representatives of the mighty Somerled."⁸

Descended from this Robert Bruce, Robert I., King of Scotland, they are through him descended from Woden the Norse hero and deity and Cerdic, the founder of British royalty.⁹ They are descended, too, from Alfred the Great, Pepin the Ancient, Pepin founder of the Carolingians, Charles le Martel greatest of French heroes and monarchs,

⁸ 1 George Eyre-Todd's *Highland Clans of Scotland*, 1923, 206. See also (Smith's) *Authenticated Tartans of the Clans and Families of Scotland*, 119. "The merciless Macdonwald," Shakespeare, *Macbeth*, A. 1, s. 2, l. 9.

⁹ See 1 Sir Bernard Burke's *Vicissitudes of Families* (1883), 85-121; F. A. Sondley's *Descent of the Scottish Alexanders* (1912).

agne the greatest monarch who ever reigned over Europe, and Rollo the Dane.

Rolf, son of Rognvald, Earl of Moeri, by his lady Ahilda, daughter of Rolf *Nefia*, was a renowned sea-king, who "made much warfare in the East" and called "Ganger" or "Walker." When one summer he committed depredations in Vikin on returning from a marauding expedition in the East, from "Vikinguz," he was outlawed from Norway by King Harald Fairhair at a "Thing" and went westward to the Hebudes (Hebrides, or Sudrey ar) and became "a viking in Gaul and England for nearly forty years before his final settlement at Rouen" where he established the dukedom of Normandy in France, entering the Seine in 876 and besieging Paris and marrying Gisela, daughter of the French king, Charles the Simple. In 927 he abdicated in favor of his son William and died five years later. His son William Longsword was father of Richard the Fearless, father of Richard the Good, father of Robert the Devil, father of William the Conqueror.¹⁰

Rollo, founder of Normandy in 912, "great great grandfather of William the Conqueror," was a descendant of Einar, son of "Sigurd the Stout, jarl or earl of Orkney, who married the daughter of Melkorm, probably Malcom the Second, king of Scots, who had four sons, Thorfinn, Sumarled, Brusi, and Einar." Robert de Brusi, brother of this Rollo, had two sons, Alain de la Brusee and Robert de Brusee. This Robert de Brusee went to England with William the Conqueror, his cousin, and was the founder of the British Bruces or De Bruces and great great great grandfather of Robert Bruce, hero of Bannockburn. The name Brusi became Brus, then de Brusee, then de Brus,

¹⁰ R. W. Saint-Clair's "Saint-Clair's of the Isles," 1898, 10-19; Hume's History of England, c. 3; Encyclopaedia Britannica, 9th ed., "Normandy"; 1 Knight's History of England; Sondley's Descent of the Scottish Alexanders, 1912, 9-16, 41.

then de Bruce, then Bruce.¹¹ "The first Robert de Bruce, a follower of William the Conqueror, was rewarded by the gift of many manors, chiefly in Yorkshire, of which Skelton was the principal. His son, the second Robert, received from David I., his comrade at the court of Henry I., a grant of the lordship of Annandale, and his grandson, the third Robert, siding with David against Stephen at the battle of the Standard, became a Scottish instead of an English baron."¹² According to other authorities the son of the Robert Bruce who came with William the Conqueror was Adam Bruce and there were "nine persons in direct descent from the Bruce of Doomesday Book to de Brus of Bannockburn, the first king of the name, eight of whom were named Robert and one William, the latter being the grandson of the Norman knight Robert de Brus, and younger brother of the third Robert."¹³

These Alexanders are descended also from Rollo's descendant William the Conqueror, the Counts of Flanders of the Forster family, and from Siward Duke of Northumberland, Malcom Canmore Scottish king, Walter founder of the Stuarts, Somerled, and the Macdonalds Lords of the Isles. Thus these Alexanders of the Scotch family can trace their ancestry for fifteen hundred years to Cerdic the Saxon ruler, and for nineteen hundred years to Woden whose name we honor in Wednesday and his wife Freya whose name we honor in Friday. "The descendants of Odin (whose race was not extinct till the year 1060) are said to have reigned in Sweden above a thousand years. The temple of Upsal was the ancient seat of religion and empire."¹⁴ The Scottish Alexanders have in their veins!

¹¹ 1 Anderson's Scottish Nation, 1867, 401.

¹² 20 Encyclopaedia Britannica, 9th edition, 592, "Robert," note 5; 5 Imperial Dictionary of Universal Biography, 774, "Bruce."

¹³ 1 Anderson's Scottish Nation, 1867, 402; 1 People's Cyclopaedia, 1896, 428.

¹⁴ 1 Gibbon's Dec. and Fall (1807), c. 9, page 362, note.

the bloods of eminent crusaders; of the Norman nobility; of the ancient Celtic nobility; of the old Picts nobility; of the Danish nobility; of the Guelphs; of the Dukes of Normany; of Dukes of Saxony; of Dukes of Bavaria; of Earls of Mar claimed to be the oldest title in Great Britain.

"The original earldom of Mar has been pronounced by the Ulster king-at-arms, the most ancient title in Great Britain, perhaps in Europe."¹⁵

"THE EARLDOM OF MAR is the most ancient and, perhaps, most historic title in the Scottish Peerage. During the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth centuries, the north of Scotland was divided into several great districts, such as Athole, Moray, Ross, Buchan, Mar, &c., &c., &c., which were governed by hereditary rulers with the title of Maormer. These potentates were next in power and dignity to the King, and in the transmission of the rank and office, the rule of hereditary succession was strictly observed.

"In the case of the Maormers of Mar, the original Celtic dignity was exchanged for that of Earl, and Mortacus, Earl of Mar, was witness to a charter granted by King Malcom Canmore to the Culdees of Lochleven in 1065.

"Speaking of this title the learned Lord Hailes remarks: 'This is one of the Earldoms whose origin is lost in antiquity. It existed before our records, and before the era of genuine history.' The present Earl of Mar is the direct successor, representative, and descendant of those aboriginal Celtic Maormers."¹⁶

No field of inquiry is more inviting and more nearly inexhaustible to the student of philology and anthropology than the collision and ultimate consolidation of the Celt and the Teuton in the British Islands. Men of learning long

¹⁵ 1 James Taylor's *The Great Historic Families of Scotland*, 6.
¹⁶ 2 Sir Bernard Burke's *Vicissitudes of Families* [1833], 41-42.

ago came to realize this fact, and their studies in that field have been earnest and productive of a mass of interesting and instructive literature and are still producing more.

These Alexanders have too the bloods of Earls or Counts of Flanders; of Kings of Man and the Isles; of the Dukes of France, ancestors of Hugh Capet who founded the French Capetian dynasty; of Emperors of Germany; of Saxon Kings of England; of Kings of the old Picts; of Kings of the early Scots; of the ancient Irish Kings; of the ancient Kings of Scotland; of Kings of the Franks; of the great Danish Earls of Northumberland, Siward and Waltheof; of the first king of the Stuart royal family; of Cerdic the Saxon, leader and founder of English royalty; of Alfred the Great, England's greatest sovereign; of ancient Danish Kings; of Rollo, founder of Normandy; of William the Conqueror; of Charles le Martel, savior of Christendom; of Duncan, the Scotch king immortalized in Shakespear's *Macbeth*; of Robert Bruce, one of the world's greatest heroes; of Charlemagne, Emperor of the Romans; of Somerled, heroic Lord of the Isles (Innisgall, the Isles of the Gael, the general name given to the Hebrides); and Thane of Argyle, ancestor of the Lords of Lorn and the Lords of the Isles. Among the progenitors of these Alexanders are included at least three saints of the Catholic Calendar, namely Henry II., Emperor of Germany, and Cunigunde his wife, and Saint Margaret of Scotland, as well as Woden, the chief god of Norse mythology."¹⁷ No genealogy is more ancient or more honorable.

The origin of the Highlanders is much disputed. They seem to have been Celtic and descended from the Picts with a large admixture in early times of Norse blood.¹⁸ Herodotus (484 B.C., about) had heard of Britain under the

¹⁷ See F. A. Sondley's *Descent of the Scottish Alexanders*, 1912.

¹⁸ 1 Macdonalds' *Clan Donald*, 1896, 1-35; A. Mackenzie's *History of the Macdonalds*, 1881, 1-16; Skene's *Highlanders of Scotland*, 1836, 1-43, 44-78.

name of Cassiterides, but doubted its existence.¹⁹ Aristotle (384 B.C., about) knew of the British Islands, Britain as *Albion* and Ireland as *Ierne*.²⁰ Continental Europe, or nearly all of it, seems to have been at one early time occupied by the Celtic race, as were the British Islands. In the fifth century before Christ the inhabitants of Britain were called *Albiones* and those of Ireland *Hiberni*. All were Celts. In the days of Julius Caesar the coast inhabitants of Britain were, or seem to have been, another race called *Britanni* or Britons, whence the name Britain. In the third and fourth centuries after Christ the Picts (probably Celts), Saxons and Scots were names applied to British inhabitants. The Scots came from Ireland and gave the name of *Scotland* to north Britain, called by Romans *Caledonia*. From the Albiones part of the same land was called *Albyn* or *Albion*. The Highlanders seem to have been northern Picts and were Celts.²¹ The prevailing theory, founded on philological considerations, traces the origin of European nations in historic times to Aryan, or Indo-European, people once living in central Asia "somewhere probably east of the Caspian and North of the Hindu Kush and Paropamisan Mountains." "From this centre, in obedience to a law of movement which has continued to act through all history, successive migrations took place towards the north-west. The first swarm formed the Celts, who seem at one time to have occupied a great part of Europe; at a considerably later epoch came the ancestors of the Italians, the Greeks, and the Teutonic peoples."²² "Of the separation of the Celts from the other Aryans, or Indo-Germans, and their early migrations to Western Europe, no record has come down, the stories

¹⁹ 2 Herodotus, book 3, c. 115.

²⁰ 2 Chambers's Encyclopaedia, 1867, 355, "Britannicae Insulae."

²¹ T. Smibert's Clans of the Highlands of Scotland, 1850, vii-x.

²² 1 Chambers's Encyclopaedia, 1867, 459-460.

about Milesian colonies in Ireland and migrations from Troy into Wales, being simply monkish fictions."²³ Thus the Gael, a Celt, looks back for his rise to the misty days of Fingal and Ossian, as the Teuton to the misty days of Woden and Thor. For an examination of the various theories respecting the descent of the Scottish Highlanders see 4 Brown's History of the Highlanders, 1838, 387-418.

The Romans, called "conquerors of the world," proved unable to conquer Caledonia (Scotland) and built vast walls to protect themselves against the Picts of that country. Then the Romans abandoned Britain in 446. At that time "the Caledonians or Picts had for their chief Drust of the Hundred Battles, so called for his prowess against the Romans." The Scoto-Irish, a branch of the great Celtic family, are generally supposed to have found their way into Ireland from the western shores of North Britain, and to have established themselves "at a very early period in the Irish *Ulladh*, the Ulster of modern times"; and about the middle of the third century "Cormac was king of Ireland." His cousin and general, Cairbre-Riada "conquered a territory at the north-east corner of Ireland, of about thirty miles in extent," which the king granted to him. It was denominated Dal-Riada, or the *portion* of Riada" or Reuda. In 503 a colony of Dalriads "settled in the country of the British Epidii," now Cantyre. It was led by "three brothers, named Lorn, Fergus, and Angus, the sons of Erc, the descendant of Cairbre-Riada." Members of their posterity "acceded to the Pictish throne in eight hundred and forty-three." The preceding occupants of that throne were:

²³ 2 Ibid., 712.

<i>"Series</i>	<i>Their Names, and Relations.</i>	<i>Date of Accession</i>	<i>Dura- tion of Reigns</i>	<i>Period of Their Deaths</i>
1	Drust, the son of Erp			451
2	Talorc, the son of Amiel	451	4 yrs.	455
3	Nacton Morbet, the son of Erp	455	25 "	480
4	Drest Gurthinmoch	480	30 "	510
5	Galan au Etelich	510	12 "	522
6	Dadrest	522	1 "	523
7	Drest, the son of Girom	523	1 "	524
	Drest, the son of Wdrest, with the former	524	5 "	529
	Drest, the son of Girom alone	529	5 "	534
8	Gartnach, the son of Girom	534	7 "	541
9	Gealtraim, the son of Girom	541	1 "	542
10	Talorg, the son of Muircholaich	542	11 "	553
11	Drest, the son of Munait	553	1 "	554
12	Galam, with Aleph	554	1 "	555
	Galam, with Bridei	555	1 "	556
13	Bridei, the son of Mailcon	556	30 "	586
14	Gartnaich, the son of Dornelch	586	11 "	597
15	Nectu, the nephew of Verb	597	20 "	617
16	Cineoch, the son of Luthrin	617	19 "	636
17	Garnard, the son of Wid	636	4 "	640
18	Bridei, the son of Wid	640	5 "	645
19	Talorc, their brother	645	12 "	657
20	Tallorcan, the son of Enfret	657	4 "	661
21	Gartnait, the son of Donnel	661	6½ "	667
22	Drest, his brother	667	7 "	674
23	Bridei, the son of Bili	674	21 "	695
24	Taran, the son of Entifidich	695	4 "	699
25	Bridei, the son of Dereli	699	11 "	710
26	Nechton, the son of Dereli	710	15 "	725
27	Drest, and Elpin	725	5 "	730

28	Ungus, the son of Urguis	730	31 "	761
29	Bridei, the son of Urguis	761	2 "	763
30	Cinioid, the son of Wredech	763	12 "	775
31	Elpin, the son of Bridei	775	3½ "	779
32	Drest, the son of Talorgan	779	5 "	784
33	Talorgan, the son of Ungus	784	2½ "	786
34	Canaul, the son of Tarla	786	5 "	791
35	Constantin, the son of Urguis	791	30 "	821
36	Ungus (Hungus), the son of Urguis	821	12 "	833
37	Drest, the son of Constantine, and Talorgan, the son of Wthoil	833	3 "	836
38	Uuln, the son of Ungus	836	3 "	839
39	Wrad, the son of Bargoit	839	3 "	842
40	Bred	842	1 "	843 ²⁴

The authentic history of the Highlanders seems to begin with their great hero Somerled, although even the facts of his career are much disputed. The pedigree and even the nationality of Somerled himself are not clear beyond doubt. For a pedigree of this distinguished man and his descendants, the Macdonalds, reference may be had to A. M. W. Stirling's Macdonald of the Isles, 1914, 255-264. Other pedigrees of Somerled are as follows:

I.	II.
"The Book of Clauranald.	M.S. 1450.
Somhairle,	Somairle,
Giollabrighe,	Gillebrigde,
Giolla Adhamhnan,	Gilleegan,
Solomh,	Solam,
Meargach,	Meargad,
Suibhne,	Suibne,
Niallghusa,	Niallgusa,

²⁴ 1 Browne's History of the Highlands, 1836, 60-63; William and Andrew Smith's Authenticated Tartans of the Clans, 1850, 5.

Gothfruigh,
 Ferghus,
 Maine,
 Earc,
 Carran,
 Eochaidh,
 Colla Uais,
 Eochach Duibhlein,
 Cairbre Liffeachair,
 Cormac,
 Art,
 Conn Ceudchathach.

III.

The Books of Ballimote
 and Leccan.

Somairli,
 Gillebrigde,
 Gilleadamnan,
 Solamh,
 Imergi,
 Suibhne,
 Niallgusa,
 Amaini,
 Gofraidh,
 Fergusa,
 Erc,
 Echach,
 Colla Uais.

Maine,
 Gofrig,
 Fergusa,
 Erc,
 Cartan,
 Eathach Feighlioch,
 Collad Uais,
 Eathach Dornlein,
 Cairpre Liffechar,
 Cormac Uilfata,
 Art Ainfeair Faulcha,
 Conn Cead Feaig.

IV.

M.S. of Dean Munro, 1549.

Somerle,
 Gillebryde,
 Gilleadamnane,
 Sella,
 Mearshaighe,
 Swiffine,
 Malheussa,
 Eacime,
 Gothefred,
 Fergus,
 Erich,
 Cartayn,
 Ethay,
 Thola Craisme,
 Ethay de Wiff Leist,
 Frathrequerwy,
 Cairpre Lissechuyr,
 Crorin weet Alada,
 Art Lerneche,
 Conn Chide Kakay."

V.

M.S. 1700.
 Somerled,
 Gilbride,
 Gileonan,
 Solaimh,
 Mergadh,
 Suibhne,
 Nialgus,
 Main,
 Goffrie,
 Fergus,
 Eire,
 Carthan,
 Eoghie Feligh,
 Coll Uais.

VI.

Keating's History of Ireland.
 Samhairle,
 Giolla Bride,
 Giolla Adamhnan,
 Solamb,
 Mealbruidhe,
 Suibhne,
 Niallgus,
 Maine,
 Goffra,
 Feargus,
 Erc,
 Criomhthran,
 Eochaidn,
 Colla Uais,
 Eochaidh Liffeachair,
 Cormac Ulfhada,
 Art Aonthir,
 Conn Cead Cathach.²⁵

"Conn-Ceud-Chatchah, or Constantinus Centimachus, 'Conn of the Hundred Fights,' one of the greatest heroes of antiquity, was 'Ard Righ,' or Supreme King of Ireland, in the second century of our era, and held his Court at Tara, a name said to be derived from *Teamhair*, meaning 'the place of the wide prospect.' Today, this palace of vanished royalty is represented by a broad, grassy hill in County Meath, covered with earthworks, showing the sites of the ancient royal buildings, which can yet be clearly located from descriptions which have survived."²⁶ "About the year 880 a revolution had taken place in Norway,

²⁵ 1 Macdonalds' Clan Donald, 1896, 526-527.

²⁶ A. M. W. Stirling's Macdonald of the Isles, 1914, 2.

Harald Harfager established himself as King of that country, and, many of his opponents flying from his tyranny, formed a settlement in the Western Isles, whence they issued forth in piratical expeditions, to harass and plunder the ships and country of the usurper. Harald at length sent strong forces to subdue these Vikings, and triumphantly added to Norway both the Western Isles and the Isle of Man, whose kings were subsequently forced to hold their titles in subservience to his own."²⁷ "Gille-donnan (or the Servant of Adamnan, *i. e.*, Iona), a descendant of Godfrey Mac Fergus, fled before the conquering Danes to take refuge in the land of his ancestors, Ireland. While his daughter, whether of choice or necessity, married Harold Gillies, the King of Norway, his son Gillebride, or the Servant of St. Bride, strove valiantly to regain the inheritance which his father had lost," but was opposed by the Norse, as well as by the authorities of Scotland. Somerled, son of Gillebride, was "a well-tempered man, in body shapely, of a fair and piercing eye, of middle stature and quick discernment." "Somerled is said to have been the same as Somerhaile or Samuel, but Sir Andrew Agnew, in his *Hereditary Sheriffs of Galloway*, vol. 1, note, p. 31, states that it is a Norwegian name meaning Summer Warrior, and that it is not the same as Somerhairle, which is Gaelic for Samuel. Sumar lidi, or summer soldiers, was a name early applied to the Vikings, who, as sea rovers, usually marauded in the summer-time."²⁸ Somerled, or Sorlet, was placed at the head of the men of Mowen to resist a band of Norse pirates and defeated them by a stratagem. He then drove the Norse from the western part of Scotland, regained the country which had belonged to his ancestors, and assumed the title of Thane or Regulus

²⁷ *Ibid.*, 3.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, 3-5 and note on 4. See to the same effect Alexander Macbain's notes on W. F. Skene's *Highlanders of Scotland*, 1902, 409.

of Argyle (called by the Norse Dalir who called his family the Dalverza, Alexander Macbain's notes on W. F. Skene's *Highlanders of Scotland*, 1902, 409), and acquired control of the Western Isles and the Isle of Man. Olave the Red was the Norse king of the Western Isles and the Isle of Man. Somerled offered to marry Ragnhildis, Olave's daughter, but Olave refused the match. Maurice MacNeill, foster brother of Olave, undertook to promote the marriage. Olave was encamped in Storna Bay where Somerled was cruising and the latter offered to join the former in an expedition against the former's enemy. Maurice bored holes in the bottom of the king's ship, filled the holes with butter, and prepared pins to stop the holes when he wished to so do. When the ships started and reached the stormy point of Ardnamurchan the butter was washed from the holes in Olave's ship which began to sink. Somerled refused to rescue Olave until that king promised him Ragnhildis in marriage. When Olave promised Somerled rescued him and his men and Maurice stopped the holes with the prepared pins. "From that day it is said the descendants of this Maurice are called Mac Intyres, the sons of the wright." The marriage took place in 1140.²⁹ Other authorities state that Olave the Red "was succeeded by his son Godred the Black, whose daughter, Ragnhildis, married Somerled, Prince or Lord of Argyle, from whom sprung the dynasty so well known in Scottish history."³⁰ This Ragnhildis, Elfrica, or Rachel had three sons by Somerled; namely, Dugall, ancestor of the Macdougalls of Lorn and Donolly; Reginald, ancestor of Clan Donald; and Angus, who succeeded to Bute. Jane, daughter of his son James, married Alexander, son of Walter, High Steward of Scotland.³¹

²⁹ 1 Macdonalds' *Clan Donald*, 1896, 41-49.

³⁰ A. Mackenzie's *History of the Macdonalds*, 1881, 3.

³¹ A. Mackenzie's *History of the Macdonalds*, 1881, 26.

After the death of Olave the Red war broke out between his son, Godfred, and Somerled and at length Somerled seized half of Olave's kingdom and became also Righ Innsegall.³² The Scottish kings desired to add to their dominions the lands ruled over by Somerled and demanded that Somerled acknowledge allegiance to them. This Somerled refused to do; and, raising an army of fifteen hundred men from Ireland, Argyllshire and the Hebrides and a fleet of one hundred and sixty-four galleys, in 1164, sailed up the Clyde to Greenock, disembarked in the bay of Saint Lawrence and marched to Renfrew against the army there encamped of the Scotch king, Malcolm the Maiden. There he was betrayed, assassinated and beaten by the royal forces. The traitor seems not to have been the same Maurice Mac Neill whom he had employed in obtaining Ragnihildis for a wife, but Somerled's nephew. Some authorities say that Somerled was buried at Iona; but others say that he was buried at Saddell.³³ Saddell Castle, Kintyre, was "an old Macdonald stronghold."³⁴ On Somerled see 19 Lee's Dictionary of National Biography, 1909, 164-165. The power and dominions of Somerled descended to his sons Reginal, Dugall, and Angus.³⁵ Somerled "did more to free his countrymen from the rule of the Danes and Norwegians than any other, and in consequence, attained to a power greater than has fallen to the lot of a subject of present Scotland."³⁶ His wife, Ragnihildis, or Elfrica, or Effrica, or Rachel, was a daughter of Olave, or Olaus, the Red, King of Man and the Isles, son

³² 1 Macdonalds' Clan Donald, 1896, 44-46; A. M. W. Stirling's Macdonald of the Isles, 1914, 14-15.

³³ 1 Macdonalds' Clan Donald, 1896, 45-54; A. M. W. Stirling's Macdonald of the Isles, 1914, 19.

³⁴ 1 George Eyre-Todd's Highland Clans of Scotland, 1923, opposite 206.

³⁵ 1 Macdonalds' Clan Donald, 1896, 53.

³⁶ Sondley's Descent of the Scottish Alexanders, 1912, 36; The Scottish Clans and Their Tartans, Macdonald of the Isles; Camden's Britannia, Chronicles of the Kings of Man; 2 History of the Highland Clans, 133; 1 Wright's History of Ireland, 18.

of Godred Crovan, son of Harold the Black of Iceland.³⁷ From Somerled sprang all the large family of Macdonalds. "Of all the clans, that of the Macdonalds is by every rule of antiquity, power and numbers, fully entitled to be spoken of before any other, says Robertson."³⁸ The word Donuill, whence the name of Donald is derived, is said to signify "brown eye."³⁹ Reginald, Ranald, or Ronald, son of Somerled and Ragnihildis, was the father of Donald, who was the father of Angus Mor, who was the father of Angus Og, who was the father of John Fernyear, who was the father of Donald, Lord of the Isles, who was the father of Alexander Macdonald, Lord of the Isles, whose two or three sons assumed for a surname the first name of their father and thus gave origin to the family and family name of Alexander.⁴⁰ "The Macalesters of Loup are descended, according to some authorities, from Alexander, second son of Dovenaldus, filius Reginaldi, filius Somerledi, Thane of Argyle, who acquired the Western Isles by his marriage with Effrica, daughter of Olavus the Swarthy, King of Man, and granddaughter of Harald Harfager, King of Denmark."⁴¹ According to this Olave the Red (Swarthy) married a daughter of Harold Harfager, the founder of the kingdom of Norway (872), here called Denmark, the Scandinavian lands including both Norway and Denmark. Thus the early Macdonalds and consequently their descendants, the Alexanders, are part Gaelic (Celtic) and part Norse (Teutonic). For the Irish genealogy and the history of "Con Kead, Caha or Con of the 100 Battles," King of

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Robertson's Historical Proofs on the Highlanders, 1866, 417.

³⁹ Sondley's Descent of the Scottish Alexanders, 1912, 36.

⁴⁰ Ibid., 35-38, 49; Sir Walter Scott's Lord of the Isles, notes; 2 History of the Highland Clans, 139; Edmund Lodge's Genealogy of the British Peerage cited in Record of the Alexander Family, 9, 196; 2 History of the Highland Clans, 139, 140; 3 Burton's History of Scotland, 65; A. M. W. Stirling's Macdonald of the Isles, 1914, 257-260; A. Mackenzie's History of the Macdonalds, 1881, 1-89.

⁴¹ 3 John Burke's History of the Commoners, 1838, 687.

Ireland in 148 and a tracing of the family back through Ireland, Spain, Greece, Aegypt, and Scythia to Fenius, King of Scythia, and from him back to Japhet, see B. W. De Courcy's *Genealogical History of the Milesian Families of Ireland*, 1880, 5-13; Sondley's *Descent of the Scottish Alexanders*, 1912, 22-26.

On the early Kings of Norway see Saint-Clair's "Saint-Clairs of the Isles," 1898, 23-63, 6-9.

"When the 'twilight of the gods' ended in dawn, many ruling families claiming Odinic origin are found firmly established in Norway. Of these the principal were the Ynglings, the Skjöldings, the ancestors of Hakon Jarl, and those of Rögnvald of Moeri. The *Ajnglingatal*, a genealogical poem composed for Rögnvald Heidumhoeri, or 'the Heavenhigh' (the uncle of Harald Fairhair) traces the family of Rögnvald through thirty generations up to Odin. Ari in Iceland traces his ancestry through thirty-seven degrees to Yngvi Tyrleja-King from Olaf the White, King of Dublin, who was thirtieth in descent. . . . Passing from chaos to dawn, it is found that Halfdan the Old was father of Ivar, Jarl of the Uplands, who was sire to Eystein (*Glumra*) the Orator. Eystein had two sons, Rögnvald, hereafter Jarl of Moeri, and Sigurd, the Sea-King, famous viking and Jarl (Earl) of the Orkneys."⁴² The Ari just mentioned seems to have been the Ari Marsson who, in the tenth century, visited the Culdee Irish colony, as is said, in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, as that territory is now called, as hereinafter spoken of. "Harold, four kings of Norway, of whom only two call for notice. Harold I. (King, 863-933), son of Halfdan the Black, united Norway into one kingdom. He had sworn never to have his hair clipped till he had conquered Norway, whence he was known as *Haarfagr* ('Fair-hair'). By his victory

⁴² *Ibid.*, 6, 7.

at Hafrsfjord (872) he destroyed the provincial autonomy of Norway."⁴³ Thus Harald Haafagr was the great uncle of Rögnvald. "In the Viking expeditions (8th century onwards) the Norwegians took a leading part, helping to conquer and colonize the islands between the Arctic circle and Ireland and planting petty kingdoms in Ireland itself, where the chief ports are of Norse origin. Harold Haarfagar founded the Norwegian kingdom by his victory at Hafrsfjord (872) over the local kinglets who had hitherto partitioned the country between them."⁴⁴ "Of Earl Rögnvald we learn much from the Sagas. When Harold Fairhair started upon his career of subjugating all Norway, Rögnvald was his staunchest supporter and most trusted adviser." Rögnvald was the father of Hrolf or Rollo, founder of Normandy.⁴⁵ While it is usually stated that the Alexander Macdonald who, as given above, founded the family of Alexander, was Alexander Macdonald, Lord of the Isles, and son of Donald, Lord of the Isles, some authorities state that that family was founded by Alexander, son of Alexander who was the brother of Donald, Lord of the Isles, and was third son of John, Lord of the Isles and his wife Margaret Stewart daughter of Robert II., King of Scotland.⁴⁶ This third son of John, Lord of the Isles, and Margaret Stewart was Alexander, Lord of Lachaber, who had two sons, Angus and Alister or Alexander; and "the latter founded the House of MacAlexander which, under the more modern name," is the House of Alexander.⁴⁷ A descendant of this Alexander who founded the House of Alexander according to these authorities was Thomas Alexander who, in 1505, acquired Men-

⁴³ 7 *Nelson's Encyclopaedia*, 1907, 82.

⁴⁴ 8 *Ibid.*, 595.

⁴⁵ Saint-Clair's "Saint-Clairs of the Isles," 1898, 7-8.

⁴⁶ 1 *Rogers's House of Alexander*, 1877, 2-3.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, 2-3.

stry.⁴⁸ This Thomas Alexander was the father of Andrew Alexander,⁴⁹ who married Katherine Graham and was the father of Alexander Alexander,⁵⁰ who married Elizabeth Douglas and was the father of Andrew Alexander,⁵¹ who was the father of Alexander Alexander,⁵² who married Elizabeth Forbes and was the father of William Alexander,⁵³ who was the father of Alexander Alexander,⁵⁴ who was the father of Sir William Alexander,⁵⁵ about 1567, who in 1630 was made Viscount of Stirling and Lord Alexander of Tullibody,⁵⁶ and in 1633 was created Earl of Stirling and Viscount Canada,⁵⁷ the famous poet.

The claim that Alexander, son of that Alexander who was the brother of Donald, Lord of the Isles, and was third son of John, Lord of the Isles, and his wife Margaret Stewart, that is, Alexander, Lord of Lochaber, was the founder of the family or "house of MacAlexander which, under the more modern name," is the house of Alexander, seems to lack sufficient support. "The MacAlastairs trace their descent in the famous MS. of 1450 from the great-grandson of Somerled, Angus Mor Macdonald, Lord of the Isles in the latter part of the thirteenth century. Angus Mor had two sons, Alexander, or Alastair, and Angus Og, and it is from the former of these that the MacAlastairs take their patronymic."⁵⁸ The Thomas Alexander who in 1505 acquired Menstry, mentioned above, was an Alexander of the same family; but it is not known that he was "descendant" of this Alexander, Lord of Lochaber, or of which Alexander he was a descendant. But "the Alexanders of Menstrie" "claimed to be connected with the Clan Donald and closely allied in blood with the MacAllisters

⁴⁸ Ibid., 5-6.

⁴⁹ Ibid., 7-8.

⁵⁰ Ibid., 8.

⁵¹ Ibid., 9.

⁵² Ibid., 12.

⁵³ Ibid., 14.

⁵⁴ Ibid., 19.

⁵⁵ Ibid., 32-33.

⁵⁶ Ibid., 127.

⁵⁷ Ibid., 152, 206.

⁵⁸ 1 George Eyre-Todd's Highland Clans of Scotland, 1923, 205.

of Loup. As we had reason to point out of this work, they were descendants of Alastair Mor, through his son Gilbert of lands in Stirlingshire in 1330. The trace of this family until we find them seen in Blackmannanshire in the beginning of the 16th century."⁵⁹ Here follows the line of descent as given above or nearly so from Thomas Alexander to William Alexander, first Earl of Stirling.⁶⁰ "There seems to be no reason to doubt that the Clan Allister are the descendants of 'Alastair Mor,' son of Donald de Ile, and younger brother of Angus Mor."⁶¹ The Earls of Caledon in Ireland are Alexanders who claim to be allied with those "of Menstrie and consequently with the MacAllisters of Loup and Tarbert" and are descended from Scottish Alexanders who in 1613, under Sir James Cunningham, settled in County Donegal, Ireland. Some of these settled "on the lands of Eredy in the parish of Clonleigh." One of them was John Alexander, father of Andrew Alexander, father of John Alexander, father of James Alexander, "who, having filled several important offices in India, was elevated to the peerage of Ireland, 6th June, 1790, by the title of Baron Caledon"; and, in November, 1797, to the title of Viscount Caledon; and January 1, 1801, to the dignity of Earl of Caledon. The later Earls of Caledon are descended from the first Earl of Caledon.⁶² The Macdonalds of Glengarry were descended from Ranald or Ronald, third son of John Macdonald, Lord of the Isles, and Margaret Stewart his wife. They have two septs, Alexander and Sanderson.⁶³

Surnames when first used belonged exclusively to the

⁵⁹ 3 Macdonalds' Clan Donald, 1904, 189; 2 Ibid., 58-59.

⁶⁰ Ibid., 189-190.

⁶¹ 2 Macdonalds' Clan Donald, 1904, 29-30, 29-57. On the Earl of Stirling see 2 Macdonalds' Clan Donald, 1904, 58-80.

⁶² 3 Macdonalds' Clan Donald, 1904, 192-194.

⁶³ 2 George Eyre-Todd's Highland Clans of Scotland, 1923, 269, 270, 277.

individuals who received them and did not pass to any descendant of those persons. Later they were made to belong to the children of men of whom they were designations. It was only gradually that this custom prevailed so that children were called by the surnames of their father. "In England they began to be hereditary in the 11th century, but even yet there are districts (*e. g.*, in Wales) where the transmission of the surname is not universal."⁶⁴ "Surnames were not adopted universally in England until the reign of Queen Elizabeth."⁶⁵ "It is impossible to state at what precise period names became stationary, or began to descend hereditarily. According to Camden, surnames began to be taken up in France about the year 1000, and in England about the time of the Conquest (1066), or a very little before, under King Edward the Confessor. "He says: 'And to this time doe Scottishmen referre the antiquitie of their surnames, although Buchanan supposeth that they were not in use in Scotland many years after. But in England certaine it is, that as the better sort, even from the Conquest, by little and little, took surnames, so they were not settled among the common people fully vntilil about the time of King Edward the Second. . . . On the authority of Dr. Keating and his contemporary Gratianus Lucius, we learn that surnames first became hereditary in Ireland, in the reign of Brian Boru, who was killed in the battle of Clontarf, in the year 1014. . . . Lower tells of a church at Llangollen, Wales, dedicated to 'St. Collen-ap-Gwynnawg-ap-Clyndawg-ap-Cowrda-ap-Caradoc-ap-Freichfras-ap-Llyn-Merim-ap-Einion-Yrth-ap-Cunnedda-Wledig. . . . Surnames were not adopted in Wales until long after they were in England and Scotland. The old manner was retained as far down as the

⁶⁴ Nelson's Encyclopaedia, 1907, 386.

⁶⁵ De Courcy's Genealogical History of the Milesian Families of Ireland, 1880, 9.

time of Henry the Eighth."⁶⁶ For a very old and learned discussion of names see William Camden's Remaines Concerning Britaine, 1623, given names on pages 40-90 and surnames on pages 91-138. "In the authentical Record of the Exchequer called *Domesday*, Surnames are first found, brought in then by the Normans, who not long before first took them."⁶⁷ It is said that early Jews, after the first name would often give the father's name with the word "ben," that is "son" followed by "of," between these names, thus, Melchi Ben-Addi, Melchi, son of Addi. The Greeks often used a like manner of identification, thus Ikaros tou Daidalou, Icarus son of Deadalus. "In England, when the *patronymic* was used, the word son was usually affixed, as John Adamson; in Wales, on the contrary, although the staple of the national nomenclature was of this kind, no affix was used, but the paternal name was put in the genitive, as Griffith William's, David John's or Jones, Rees Harry's or Harris."⁶⁸ Then in Wales "a few adopted the surnames of English families with whom they were allied, as the ancestors of Oliver Cromwell, who thus exchanged Williams for Cromwell."⁶⁹ "The like was vused among our Auncestors the English" by giving the first name and next "son of" and then the father's name, thus Ceonred Ceolwadding, Ceonred son of Ceolwald. "And to this is observed by *William of Malmesbury*, where he noteth that the sonne of *Eadgar* was called *Eadgaring*, and the son of *Edmund*, *Edmunding*. The Britans in the same sence with *Ap* for *Map*, as *Ap Owen*, *Owen Ap Harry*, *Harry Ap Rhese*, as the Irish with their *Mac*, as *Donald MacNeale*, *Neal Mac Con*, *Con Mac Dermot*, &c. And the

⁶⁶ William Arthur's Etymological Dictionary of Family and Christian Names, 1857, 16-22.

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, 96.

⁶⁸ 1 Lower's English Surnames, 1849, 19.

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, 19-20; 5 Stephen and Lee's Dictionary of National Biography, 1908, 155.

old Normans with *Fitz* for *Filz*, as *John Fitz-Robert, Robert Fitz-Richard, Richard Fitz-Ralph, &c.* The Arabians onely as one learned noteth, vsed their fathers names without their owne forename, as *Aven-Pace, Aven-Rois, Aven-Zoan*, that is, the son of *Pace, Rois, and Zoan.* . . . So Surnames passing from father to sonne, and continuing to their issue, was not anciently in vse among any people in the world."⁷⁰ "The French and we term them *Surnames*, not because they are names of the Sire, or the father, but because they are superadded to Christian names, as the Spaniards call them *Renombres*, as *Renames.*"⁷¹ Ap was often written ab, hab, or vap. The *ap* and the name following it were often combined into a surname and ap Howell became Powell, ap Rhrys became Price, ap Richard became Pritchard, ap Roger became Prodger, ap Humphrey became Pumphrey, ap Harry became Parry, ap Henry became Penry, ap Hugh became Pugh, etc.⁷² Similarly the Russians use "witz" as a termination and the Poles "sky" and the Biscayans a similar method.⁷³ Fitz is a corruption of "fils" from the Latin *filius*, son.⁷⁴ The use of Mac, Fitz, Son, Ap, O, etc., in forming surnames had a parallel in the French custom of indicating a particular person by adding to his first name the word *de* (meaning "of") followed by the name of the place of his birth or his residence, as Henry de Paris. The Germans use *von* ("of") in the same way, as William von Hohenzollern; the Dutch so used *van*, as Van Dyke; and the English so used *of*, as John of Gaunt, Florence of Worcester, William of Malmesbury, although the last, unlike the others, seem never to have passed from father to son. "Sur [Fr.]. A

⁷⁰ Ibid., 91-92.

⁷¹ Ibid., 91.

⁷² 1 M. A. Lower's English Surnames, 1849, 17.

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

prefix from the French, contracted from L. *super, supra*, or *sursum*, and signifying in composition, *upon, over* and *above.*"⁷⁵ Surname, "An appellation added to the original name."⁷⁶ "Until about the middle of the last century it was soemtimes written 'Surname.' Whether this variation originated in the lax orthography of other times, or whether it was adopted to express a slight difference of meaning, I will not undertake to decide. Some writers have held the latter opinion, and defined 'Sir-name' as 'nomen patris additum proprio,' and 'Sur-name' as 'nomen supra, nomen additum.' *Mac-Allan, Fitzherbert, Ap Evan, and Stephenson* would accordingly be sir or 'sire'-names, equivalent to the son of Allan, of Herbert, of Evan, and of Stephen. Of 'Sur'-names, Du Cange says, they were at first written not in a direct line *after* the Christian name, but *above* it, *between the lines*, and hence they were called in Latin SUPRANOMINA, in Italian SUPRANOME, and in French SURNOMS,—'over-names.' Those who contend for the non-identity of the two words, assert that although every Sir-name is a Sur-name, every Sur-name is not a Sir-name."⁷⁷ The badge of Clan Macalastair is the common heath (*erica vulgaris*), Fraochgorm.⁷⁸ For tartan see same.

Besides the great poets, Sir William Alexander, Earl of Stirling, and his more illustrious descendant, Sir Walter Scott, of the Alexander branch, the Macdonalds have had for their bards the following: John Macdonald, generally known as *Iain Lorn*, or Bare John, and sometimes as *Iain Manntach*, or John the Stammerer (1644); John Macdonald, known as *Iain Dubh Mac Iain 'ic Ailein* (1650); Cecilia Macdonald, called *Silis Nighean 'ic Raonuill* (1660); John Clarach Macdonald, known as *Macdonald*

⁷⁵ Worcester's Dictionary of the English Language, 1860, 1453.

⁷⁶ Ibid., 1455.

⁷⁷ 1 M. A. Lower's English Surnames, 1849, 13-14.

⁷⁸ 1 George Eyre-Todd's Highlands of Scotland, 1923, 205.

Clarach (1691), of Irish birth; Alexander Macdonald, known as *Alastair Mac Mhaigh*; *Istear Alastair* (1690); Archibald Macdonald, known as *Gille-na-Ciottaig* (1750); Alexander Macdonald, known as *Dall Mor* (1750); Donald Macdonald, known as *Am Bard Cananach* (1780); Donald Macdonald, known as *Domhnall Mac Fhionnlaidh nan Dan* (1500-1600); Archibald Macdonald; Angus Macdonald, known as *Aonghas Mac Alastair Ruaidh* (1650-1700); Angus Macdonald, known as the Muck Bard; Donald Macdonald, known as *Domhnall Donn Mac Fir Bhothiuntainn*; Randal Macdonald; John Macdonald; Rachel Macdonald; Angus Macdonald; Alice Macdonald; Alexander Macdonald; Archibald Macdonald, known as *An Ciaran Mabach* (1644); and George Macdonald (1824).⁷⁹

Alexander Macdonald, son of Donald, Lord of Isles, whose mother was Mary, sister of Alexander, Earl of Ross, was himself Lord of the Isles and Earl of Ross. He had two sons who for a surname assumed the given name of their father, Alexander, or, as the Scotch often call it, Alaster. This was a not uncommon Scotch custom. From them the Scotch Alexanders are descended.⁸⁰ These people were originally of the Scottish Hielands. "It may not be necessary to tell southern readers, that the mountainous country in the southwestern borders of Scotland, is called Hieland (short), though totally different from the much more mountainous and more extensive districts of the north, usually accented Hieland (long)."⁸¹ "Reginald, lord of Islay and South Kintyre and King of the Isles, was the father

⁷⁹ 3 Macdonalds' *Clan Donald*, 1904, 570-595, 639-641. For a discussion of the Gallgael or Gaugall, Macdonald, see 4 Browne's *History of the Highlands*, 1838, 418-427. On Somerled and the Macdonalds see *Collectanea de Rebus Albanicis*, 1847.

⁸⁰ E. Alexander's *Record of the Alexander Family*, 1878, 9, 196; F. A. Sondley's *Descent of the Scottish Alexanders*, 1912, 49, 37-38.

⁸¹ Sir Walter Scott's *Guy Mannering*, volume two, chapter 21 note.

of Donald, the progenitor of the clan Donald, who had three sons, Roderick, Angus, and Alexander, Roderick's male descendants became extinct in the third generation. The second son, Angus, lord of Islay, the Angus Mohr of the Sennachies, and the first of his race who acknowledged himself a subject of the King of Scotland, was ancestor of the earls of Ross, lords of the Isles, of the lords Macdonald, and of the earls of Antrim in Ireland. His grandson, John, lord of the Isles, took for his second wife, the princess Margaret, daughter of Robert II., and his third son by her, Alexander, Lord of Lochaber, forfeited in 1431, had two sons, Angus ancestor of the Macalisters of Loup, Argyleshire, and Alexander Macalister, who obtained the lands of Menstrie, Clackmannanshire, in feu from the family of Argyle, and was ancestor of the earls of Stirling. His posterity took the surname of Alexander from his Christian name.⁸² The marriage of John, Lord of the Isles, and Margaret Stewart was about 1360.⁸³ Of the MacAlesters it is said that, though descendants of MacDonld, Lord of the Isles, these Alexanders opposed Robert Bruce and fought with Montrose.⁸⁴

To this family of Alexander has belonged many men of great fame. One of these William Alexander, Earl of Stirling, who became an author at fourteen, whom James VI. of Scotland and I. of Great Britain called "my philosophical poet" and to whom that king and his son Charles I. granted Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the northeastern portion of what is now the United States, was so eminent in literature that Joseph Addison, on reading his

⁸² 1 W. Anderson's *Scottish Nation*, 1867, 105; *The Alexander Family* by William M. Clemens, 1914, 3; 1 Charles Rogers's *House of Alexanders*, 1877, 2-3; 1 Stephen and Lee's *Dictionary of National Biography*, 1908, 275. See Sir Walter Scott's *Lord of the Isles*, canto 8, note on Somerled.

⁸³ T. Smibert's *Clans of the Highlands of Scotland*, 1850, 21.

⁸⁴ William and Andrew Smith's *Authenticated Tartans of the Clans*, 1850, 119.

works, exclaimed: "The beauties of our ancient English poets are too slightly passed over by modern writers, who, out of a peculiar singularity, had rather take pains to find fault than endeavor to excel." This Sterling or Stirling, the Scotchtown from which the earl's title was derived, is often supposed to have some connection with the word "sterling" used in regard to British money. This word "Sterling" is from the word "Easterling," meaning Germans, "not from Striueling in Scotland."⁸⁵ This William Alexander (1567?-1640), son of Alexander Alexander, son of William Alexander, was born in Menstrie House, Scotland near Stirling and, after completing his education, went on a tour of Europe with Archibald, seventh Earl of Argyle, as tutor and on his return was introduced at the Scottish Court and there made tutor to Prince Henry, eldest son of James VI. When James became James I. of Great Britain and went to London, Alexander soon followed the court. There he was knighted about 1609, made master of requests in 1614, granted Nova Scotia in 1621 enlarged by subsequent grant, in 1626 was made by James I. Secretary of State for Scotland and by the same king in 1630 Lord Alexander of Tullibody and Viscount Stirling, and by Charles I. in 1633 Earl of Stirling and Viscount of Canada and in 1639 Earl of Dovan (Devon), and died in London, September 12, 1640. He published numerous works in prose and poetry, the principal of which were *Recreations with the Muses*, *A Paraenesis to the Prince*, *Darius*, *Croesus*, *Aurora*, *Doomesday* and with James I. versification of the *Psalmes*.⁸⁶ Both Shakespeare and Milton are said to have copied from his works.⁸⁷

⁸⁵ William Camdens Remaines Concerning Britain, 1623, 174.

⁸⁶ 1 Stephen and Lee's Dictionary of National Biography, 1908, 275-281; 1 Chambers's Biographical Dictionary of Eminent Scotsmen, 1856, 42-46; 1 W. Anderson's Scottish Nation, 1867, 106-113; Charles Rogers's House of Alexander, 1877.

⁸⁷ Furness's Shakespeare, *Tempest*, act 4, sc. 1, note on line 174, 1892, p. 211; 1 W. Anderson's Scottish Nation, 1867, 107.

"When the descendants of Alexander M'Alaster—who, on settling at Menstrie, Clackmannshire, first took the surname of Alexander—became numerous, the family, for the sake of distinction, were divided into five separate branches, all bearing the original arms and motto; but the four younger and subordinate branches were then marked off from the eldest, and from each other, by different and distinctive crests. As a matter of course, the eldest branch retained, as being the most honourable, the original crest of the family, viz., a bear sitting up erect—a distinction of which they were exceedingly proud, and which became a matter of envy and jealousy to the other branches, because it denoted the eldership and superiority over them. From this eldest branch the earls of Stirling derived their descent, and therefore 'a Bear, sejant, erect, proper,' is their authorized and recorded crest; and it was their excessive pride in their possession of this, which forms the subject of that severe satire of Sir Walter Scott, in his romance of *Waverley*, where he so conspicuously and ludicrously parades the favourite crest of the earls of Stirling as 'the Great Bear of the Barons of Bradwardine.'"⁸⁸ There were different families of Alexanders having different crests, different coats of arms, and different mottoes. Fourteen of these Alexander coats of arms are described in John and John Bernard Burke's *Armory of England, Scotland, and Ireland*, 1843, "Alexander." "Alexander (of Menstrie, *Earls of Stirling*)—Per pale, arg. and sa. a chev. and in base a crescent, all counterchanged, quartering MacDonalld. *Crest*—A bear, sejant, erect, ppr. *Motto*—Per mare pes terras. . . . Alexander (Auchmul, Scotland). Per pale ar. and sa. a chev. betw. two mullets in chief and crescent in base, all counterchanged. *Crest*—A hand sustaining a pair of balances of equal scales, ppr. *Motto*—Quod libi ne alteri."⁸⁹

⁸⁸ 3 W. Anderson's Scottish Nation, 1867, 521.

⁸⁹ *Ibid.*

One of the Alexander families is that of "Alexander of Powis," of the County of Clackmannan, which "claims to be a branch of the same root as the Earls of Stirling."⁹⁰

For the crests see 1 Fairbanks's Crests, 1892, 7, and cuts in second volume; John Burke's Armorie of England, Scotland, and Ireland, 1843, "Alexander"; B. Burke's Peerage, 1916, "Alexander." For coats of arms see B. Burke's Peerage, 1916, "Alexander"; John Burke's Armorie of England, Scotland, and Ireland, 1843, "Alexander." For mottoes see B. Burke's Peerage, 1916, "Alexander"; John Burke's Armorie of England, Scotland, and Ireland, 1843, "Alexander"; 1 Fairbanks's Crests, 1892, 7. The motto of Alexanders generally is *Per mare per terras*,⁹¹ the same as that of the Macdonalds from which they sprung.⁹²

"Arms of Macdonald (of the Isles). . . . Arms. Quarterly: First, Argent, a lion rampant, gules. Second, Or, a hand in armour, holding a cross crosslet, fitchee, gules. Third, Or, a row galley, or lymphad, the sail furled up, sable. Fourth, Vert, a salmon naiant, in fess, proper. Crest. A hand in armour holding a cross crosslet, fitchee, gules. Supporters. Two tigers tenne, collared. Or, armed and langued, gules. Motto. *Per mare per terras* (By sea and land). Badge. Heath."⁹³

Descriptions of this coat of arms vary. Another is: "Or, an eagle displ. with two heads, gu. (some have the eagle with only one head) surmounted by a lymphad sa. in the dexter chief point a dexter hand coupé gu. Crest—A raven sa. standing on a rock az."^{93a}

⁹⁰ 2 Burke's History of the Commoners, 1836, 170.

⁹¹ 1 Fairbanks's Crests, 1892, 7.

⁹² 1 Fairbanks's Crests, 1892, 286-287; John Burke's Armorie of England, Scotland, and Ireland, "Macdonald."

⁹³ T. Smibert's Clans of Scotland, 1850, 31.

^{93a} John and John Bernard Burke's General Armory of England, Scotland, and Ireland, 1843, "Macdonald (ancient Lords of the Isles)."

For a colored plate of the coat of arms of Macdonald of the Isles see T. Smibert's Clans of Scotland, 1850, 340, fifth page of plates; 4 Browne's History of Scotland, 1909, 290. War Cry of Macdonalds, Fraoch Eilean (The Heathery Isle) and (Clanranald) Dh' aindeoin co their eadh e (Gainsay who dare).⁹⁴ For their tartans see 4 Browne's History of Scotland, 1909, 290; Smibert's Clans of Scotland, 1850, 16-17; 2 Keltie's History of Highlands, 1883, 136; 4 Brown's History of the Highlands, 1855, 432; William and Andrew Smith's Authenticated Tartans of the Clans, 1850, Plates 4, 5, 6, 7, 60; James Grant's Tartans of the Clans of Scotland, 1886, Plates 26, 27, 28, 29, 30; 1 and 2 Logan's Clans of the Scottish Highlands, 1845, MacIan's Plates; D. MacIsaac's Scottish Clan and Their Tartans, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46; 1 George Eyre-Todd's Highland Clans of Scotland, 1923, 232-259; 2 Ibid., 261-277. For MacDonald Arms see James Grant's Tartans of the Clans, 1886, "Clan of Macdonald"; "Macdonald of Clanranald", "Macdonald of Glengarry", "Macdonald of the Isles and Slate", "Macdonald of Staffa."

MacAlastair Tartans: William and Andrew Smith's Authenticated Tartans of the Clans, 1850, Plate 48; Grant's Tartans of the Clans of Scotland, 1886, Plate 24; 2 Logan's Clans of the Scottish Highlands, MacIan's plate; D. MacIsaac's Scottish Clans and Their Tartans, 36; 1 George Eyre-Todd's Highlanders of Scotland, 1923, 204. Motto, *Per mare per terras* (over land and sea). Banner, forsitan. Macalister Arms see Grant's Tartans of the Clan, 1886, "Clan Macalister." Arms: Eagle with spreading wings fronting gules (sometimes, upper left galley with furled sails, sa., and upper right, cross crosslet, fitchee,

⁹⁴ D. MacIsaac's Scottish Clans and Their Tartans, xii.

gules). Crest, castle, or. Supporters, bear rampant pierced with arrow (or.) and eagle rampant (or.).

More famous than William Alexander, Earl of Stirling and Dovan, was his descendant, the great author, and poet, Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832). He was born at Edinburgh, educated at Edinburgh University, Sheriff of Ettrick Forest, Clerk of the Court of Sessions, and built Abbotsford where he died September 21, 1832, after being made a baronet in 1820 and having declined an offer of the laureateship. His fame as a poet was established by his *Lay of the Last Minstrel*, *Marmion*, *Lady of the Lake*, and other poems. It was increased by his editions of English poets, historical works, essays, biographies, and plays; but all were eclipsed by his greater fame as author of the *Waverley Novels*. He had become involved in a publishing house which failed and he worked himself to death in earning money by his writings with which to pay its large indebtedness. "On Sir Walter's copy of *Recreations with the Muses*, by William Earl of Stirling, 1637, there is the following MS. note:—'Sir William Alexander, sixth Baron of Menstrie, and first Earl of Stirling, the friend of Drummond of Hawthornden and Ben Jonson, died in 1640. His eldest son, William Viscount Canada, died before his father, leaving one son and three daughters by his wife, Lady Margaret Douglas, eldest daughter of William, first Marquis of Douglas. Margaret, the second of these daughters, married Sir Robert Sinclair of Longformacus in the Merse, to whom she bore two daughters, Anne and Jean. Jean Sinclair, the younger daughter, married Sir John Swinton of Swinton; and Jean Swinton, her eldest daughter, was the grandmother of the proprietor of this volume.'"⁹⁵ In his famous "Heart of Midlothia," Sir

⁹⁵ 1 John Gibson Lockhart's *Memoirs of the Life of Sir Walter Scott*, Bart., 1861, chapter 2, note, p. 88.

Walter Scott has justly held up to the admiration of mankind, the great friend of the Alexanders, John Duke of Argyle.⁹⁶

In this race there were others of less distinction. Among them were Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln (died 1148), a Norman by birth, chancellor of England;⁹⁷ Alexander of Ashby (fl. 1220), a prior;⁹⁸ Alexander of Canterbury (fl. 1120?), a monkish author;⁹⁹ Alexander of Hales (died 1245), theological author;¹⁰⁰ Daniel Asher Alexander (1768-1846), architect;¹⁰¹ John Alexander (died 1743), preacher, scholar and author;¹⁰² John Alexander (1736-1765), commentator;¹⁰³ William Alexander (1767-1816), artist;¹⁰⁴ Boyd Alexander (1873-1910), traveller and orinthologist;¹⁰⁵ William Alexander (1824-1911), archbishop of Armagh;¹⁰⁶ Sir James Edward Alexander (1803-1885), general;¹⁰⁷ William Lindsay Alexander (1808-1884), preacher.¹⁰⁸

The name of Sanders or Saunders is a changed form of Alexander.¹⁰⁹ There was Francis Sanders (1648-1710);¹¹⁰ Francis Williams Sanders (1769-1831), famous conveyancer, law-writer and reporter;¹¹¹ George Sanders (1774-1846), portrait-painter;¹¹² John Sanders (1750-1825), painter;¹¹³ Nicholas Sanders (1530?-1581), his-

⁹⁶ W. A. Duer's *Life of Lord Stirling*, 1847, 2.

⁹⁷ 1 Stephen and Lee's *Dictionary of National Biography*, 1908, 267-271.

⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, 271.

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁰ *Ibid.*, 271-272.

¹⁰¹ *Ibid.*, 272-273.

¹⁰² *Ibid.*, 273.

¹⁰³ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*, 281.

¹⁰⁵ Lee's *Dictionary of National Biography*, 1 Second Supplement, 1912, 30.

¹⁰⁶ *Ibid.*, 31-32.

¹⁰⁷ Lee's *Dictionary of National Biography*, Supplement 1909, 31-32.

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid.*, 32-33.

¹⁰⁹ C. W. Bardsley's *English Surnames*, 1898, 97-98; E. Weekley's *Romance of Names*, 1922, 62.

¹¹⁰ 17 Lee's *Dictionary of National Biography*, 1909, 746-747.

¹¹¹ *Ibid.*, 747.

¹¹² *Ibid.*

¹¹³ *Ibid.*, 747-748.

torian;¹¹⁴ Robert Sanders (1727-1783), compiler;¹¹⁵ William Sanders (1799-1875), geologist;¹¹⁶ William Rutherford Sanders (1828-1881), physician.¹¹⁷ Then there were Sir Charles Saunders (1713-1775), admiral;¹¹⁸ Sir Edmund Saunders (died 1683), judge;¹¹⁹ Sir Edward Saunders (died 1756), judge;¹²⁰ Erasmus Saunders (1670-1724), preacher;¹²¹ Sir George Saunders (1671?-1734), rear-admiral;¹²² George Saunders (1762-1839), architect;¹²³ Henry Saunders (1728-1785), historian;¹²⁴ John Saunders (1810-1895), author;¹²⁵ John Cunningham Saunders (1773-1810), surgeon;¹²⁶ Laurence Saunders (died 1555), preacher;¹²⁷ Richard Saunders (1613-1687), astrologer;¹²⁸ Richard Huck Saunders (1720-1785), physician;¹²⁹ Thomas William Saunders (1814-1890), magistrate;¹³⁰ William Saunders (1743-1817), physician;¹³¹ William Saunders (1823-1895), politician;¹³² William Saunders (1809-1879), entomologist.¹³³ But one of the most famous of the Macdonalds, kinswoman of the Alexanders, was Flora Macdonald (1722-1790), heroine.¹³⁴ Another was Jacques Etienne Joseph Alexandre Macdonald, Duke of Tarentum, Napoleon's celebrated marshal (1765-1840);¹³⁵ another was Sir Alastair MacColla (1600?-1647), warrior;¹³⁶ and another was Sir John Alexander Macdonald (1815-1891), Canadian statesman.¹³⁷ Flora Macdonald belonged to North Carolina as well as to Scotland. "It is to the credit of the three strains of Macdonald blood that mingled in her veins, Clanranald, Dunneveg, and Sleat, that they combined to produce the most

¹¹⁴ Ibid., 748-751.

¹¹⁵ Ibid., 751.

¹¹⁶ Ibid., 751-752.

¹¹⁷ Ibid., 752.

¹¹⁸ Ibid., 808-810.

¹¹⁹ Ibid., 810-811.

¹²⁰ Ibid., 811-812.

¹³⁴ 3 Macdonalds' Clan Donald, 1904, 610-618.

¹³⁵ Ibid., 619-625.

¹²¹ Ibid., 812-813.

¹²² Ibid., 813.

¹²³ Ibid., 813-814.

¹²⁴ Ibid., 814.

¹²⁵ Ibid., 814-815.

¹²⁶ Ibid., 815-816.

¹²⁷ Ibid., 816.

¹³⁶ Ibid., 596-609.

¹²⁸ Ibid., 817-818.

¹²⁹ Ibid., 818.

¹³⁰ Ibid., 818-819.

¹³¹ Ibid., 819-820.

¹³² Ibid., 820.

¹³³ Ibid., 820-821.

¹³⁷ Ibid., 626-632.

illustrious woman that has adorned the annals of the Scottish Highlands."¹³⁸

In America the family of Alexanders has been represented. William Alexander (1726-1783), son of James Alexander, lawyer and surveyor, was born in New York city; joined the British army and in 1757, tried unsuccessfully to establish a claim to the extinct earldom of Stirling but always afterwards claimed that title. He became surveyor general of New York. On the beginning of the Revolutionary War he joined the American forces, and in March, 1776, was made Brigadier General. Taken prisoner in that year he was exchanged in February, 1777, and made Major General. The surrender of the Hessians at Trenton was received by him. He fought at Brandywine, Germantown, and Monmouth, and was one of the founders of Columbia College, New York. He was proficient in mathematics and astronomy.¹³⁹

Members of the Alexander family are to be found in about every State of the United States. One Alexander was not great but was eccentric. Sir Jerome Alexander, an English judge in the reign of Charles II., in Ireland, made his will in 1670 and in it bequeathed his large estate in Ireland to his daughter Elizabeth on condition that she should forfeit it if she should "marry any lord of Ireland, or any archbishop, bishop, prelate, baronet, knight, esquire or gentleman that has come of Irish extraction, or been born or bred in Ireland."¹⁴⁰

In the days of Henry VIII. and on through the reign of his daughter Elizabeth, northern Ireland was in a state of continuous disturbance. English misrule and Irish turbulence combined to maintain a prolonged rebellion in that

¹³⁸ Ibid., 615.

¹³⁹ 1 Stephen and Lee's Dictionary of National Biography, 1908, 280-281; 1 Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography, 1895, 48.

¹⁴⁰ 2 Sir Bernard Burke's Vicissitudes of Families, 1883, 408-409.