

Family Records
of the Senior Branch of.
The Robertsons of Churchville, N. S.

John Robertson "The Pioneer" (1725-1818) came from Farlie in the Parish of Kilmorack, Schtland in 1784. He had two sons and four daughters.

His elder son James was 23 years of age on coming to Nova Scotia. He married in 1787 and had twelve of a family, seven sons and five daughters. His estate was divided between his seven sons. Part of it was known as the River Settlement

This Family Tree shows some of the descendants of

James Robertson

(1761—1835)



THE CHIEF

LANGTON ROBERTSON OF STRUAN

Greetings From The Chief of The Robertsons

My thoughts are with you: My hopes are for you:

The Robertsons have a brave heritage of two thousands of years of family and Racial descent -- of contribution to strong human character -- of crowning achievement in christian civilization. To be a Robertson is to face the call to be the bigger man.

Let that call be always answered

Signed **STRUAN**

NOTE: . . . ABBREVIATIONS USED, b.—born; m.—married; Unm.—unmarried; d.—died; d.y.—died young. Two dates in brackets signified date of birth and death. Children are in order of age, the eldest at the top of the page.

“Lest We Forget.”

The Clans of Scotland

The Highlanders of Scotland are of the Celtic (Keltic) race and are not Anglo-Saxons. They are of the same race as the Irish, the Welsh, the natives of Cornwall, Britany and the Basques of Spain. They are gallant fighters and the Highland regiments have a record unsurpassed in the British army. "The Black Watch", the "Gordon Highlanders", the "Cameron Highlanders" and the "H.L.I." to mention only a few. Many books are written on the Scottish clans, their chiefs and their chieftains so it will be unnecessary to mention them here. There are about fifty or sixty large clans such as MacDonald, Robertson and Campbell and numerous smaller ones and septs of the large clans.

About half of the large clans are "Macs" such as MacLeod, MacLean, MacKay, etc., and several of them end their name with "son" such as Robertson, Matheson and Davidson. Others have individual names as Fraser, Munro, Grant, Gunn and Cameron.

The dress of the Highland clans is "the kilt" and it is proudly worn by the Scottish-highland regiments, their allied regiments overseas and by clansmen all over the world, particularly at clan gatherings.

Each clan and sometimes each sept has their own tartan and frequently a "dress tartan" and a "hunting tartan". In these days tartan rugs, skirts, ties and the kilt are frequently used by those entitled to them. Or, if the person can trace back to a particular clan.

A "sept" is usually a branch of a large clan bearing a separate name but following or being attached to that clan. Septs are very numerous and usually wear the tartan of the clan which they are connected with. Altho some have their own tartan.

Mottos, slogans, war cries and badges as well as tartans denote each clan. It is the proud boast of the gael or celts that the clans fought the Romans in the battle of Mons Grampus in 84 A.D., and brought the invasion to a halt. The real Highlands were never invaded by the Romans.

There are four clans particularly associated with this family tree.

Clan MacDonald

The MacDonald are undoubtedly the most distinguished and numerous clan in Scotland. Their founder was the able fighter, Somerled who had three sons and who died in battle in 1164.

It was called Clan Donald after one of the sons and they soon became Lord of the Isles and a power in the Highlands.

The Chief of the Clan became Earl of Ross and almost equal to the King in influence and in power.

They had many important branches including MacDonald of Clan Ronald who was "out" for Bonnie Prince Charlie in 1745 with 700 fighting men, MacDonald of Sleat, MacDonald of Keppoch, MacDonnel of Glengarry, MacIain of Glencoe and several others.

Many of the clan have come to Canada, (particularly to Cape Breton and Pictou County) including Sir John A. MacDonald our first Prime Minister.

The present chief of Clan Donald is Lord MacDonald of Sleat in Skye a young man who is no longer "Lord of the Isles."

The Campbells

This clan was and is one of the leading clans of Scotland. Its chief is the Duke of Argyll. They grew immensely powerful at the expense of neighboring clans and were not at all popular on account of opposing the Stuarts and Bonnie Prince Charlie.

They are divided into several branches such as Breadalbane, Cawdor and Glenlyon. The latter being connected with the massacre of Glencoe. The duke's seat is ~~in the Castle near Loch Awe in Argyshire. A beautiful place.~~

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Clan Fraser

One of the important clans of the north of Scotland is "The Frasers of Lovat". They are of Norman origin but have been so long in Scotland that they are considered and recognized as a highland clan.

There is probably more Fraser families in Pictou County than any other clan. The MacDonalds are a close second.

Incidentally a battle was fought by these two clans long ago, known as Blar-na-Leine (The Battle of the Shirts) because the combatants removed their shirts and fought with such determination that only five Frasers and eight MacDonalds remained alive at the end of the battle.

Simon, 11th Lord Lovat, an old man, was captured after the Battle of Culloden and was beheaded. He tried to play both sides and lost.

The present Lord Lovat, 16th chief, is famous for leading the Commandos in the 2nd World War. He is a great land owner, a charming man and a good friend of the writer's. His home is Beaufort Castle near Beauuly, Inverness-shire.

Clan Robertson

The clan claims descent from the great king, Malcolm II (1005-1034) and through him from Kenneth MacAlpine first king of the Picts and Scots who reigned 843 to 859 A.D.

Dr. W. F. Skene, an eminent authority, says, "The Robertsons of Struan are unquestionably the oldest family in Scotland".

Duncan or Donnachaidh Reamhair de Atholiia (1275-1356) is the chief, from which they took the name of clan Donnachaidh. He was a famous fighter and a firm friend of King Robert the Bruce. He led the clan at the battle of Bannockburn. He had four sons, the eldest named Robert after King Robert. So they were from then on called Robertsons. There are numerous Septs such as Duncans, Reids, Roys, Starks and others.

The Robertsons were always noted for their loyalty to the Stuart kings. A loyalty which cost them dear in later years. Under the great Montrose, when they fought for King Charles I, the clan numbered 800 fighting men. They fought at Culloden, a terrible day for the Robertsons, and all other Jacobite clans.

The barony of Struan was created in 1451. The chief of the clan is styled "Struan Robertson" and the present chief is resident in Jamaica, W.I.

The clan is (next to the MacDonalds and the Campbells) the third most numerous clan in Scotland.

An active clan society was formed in 1893 and the writer was for several years vice-chairman and is at the present time an honorary vice president of the society.

Greetings from The Writer

Due to very large families in the early days and to lack of space, it has been found impossible to insert all of the descendants but I trust that the reader will study the "Important notes" numbers one to ten. It has been a lot of work.

Time passes on in the pleasant County of Pictou. We the descendants of The Pioneer and his two sons and four daughters, come and go and pass from the scene. The Bi-Centennial (1784-1984) will be held soon, in 1984.

Who will see it? And who will celebrate it?

Historical Notes

The first settler in the district now known as Churchville, (it was once known as Robertson's Mills) was John Robertson, the "Pioneer". He was the grandson of Robert Robertson of Struan (or Lude) who was "Chamberlain" to Lord Lovat in 1680. Robert died in 1720. His grandson John was born in 1725 near Beaully Invernessshire Scotland and left his farm "Farlie" in 1784 and migrated with his wife and family to Nova Scotia. Coming over on the ship "John" to Halifax, N.S.

He and his two sons James and William explored the forest particularly along the East River and slept for a few nights under a famous old Elm Tree that is still standing in the yard of Col. J. G. Robertson. He built a good cabin exactly where the "Robertson Cairn" now stands. The property was divided between his two sons. Nearly one thousand acres to each.

His elder son James married in 1787 and that year built his cabin near the top of a small hill on the farm now owned by A. D. MacDonald, Esq. This farm was owned, one hundred years ago, by Deacon Wm. Robertson. Third son of James Robertson (1761-1835).

James Robertson and his wife are buried in the old cemetery located in the wood at Mrs. Rod MacLellan's. Near the farm of the late Miss Myra J. Robertson. Buried near the graves of his brother William and William's wife and their grandchildren.

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Please Read Very Important Notes No. 1 to 10

Due to lack of space these notes are inserted here. They explain omissions.

Note No. 1. Joseph had 15 children, 9 sons and 6 girls. It is impossible to list them here. Due to lack of space.

Note No. 2. Margaret had a large family.

Note No. 3. William had 10 children, 6 sons and 4 girls. Several of them went to Minnesota, one daughter went to New Zealand. One daughter married John MacKay (1820-1892) Impossible to list here. One son, Duncan stayed in Churchville.

Note No. 4. James had 10 children, 6 sons and 4 girls. Impossible to list here. The youngest son John Duncan was the father of Wm. C. Robertson of California. Another son, James (1828-1901) was the father of Rev. Alex Robertson (1879-1955.) (Impossible to list here.)

Note No. 5. Donald had a family of 4 including 3 sons. Was the first man buried in New Churchville cemetery, 1860.

Note No. 6. James (1824-1888) had a family of 5 including 3 daughters. Catherine (1874-1960) and D. Samuel F. have descendants, in the United States.

Note No. 7. William (Shoemaker) was married to Catherine Cameron who was the widow of Thomas Robertson and had a daughter Jemima who died in 1948. William had 3 sons and 2 daughters.

Note No. 8. Charles E was a druggist. He was twice married. He had two sons Kenneth William and Thomas Daniel. The former lives in Olwein, Iowa and the latter in Seattle Washington, U.S.A.

Note No. 9. Thomas Scott was an expert stone-cutter. Married 3 times. Had one son (adopted) Edwin LeRoy (1902-1966) who was married to Anna Jessie MacBain.

Note No. 10. William Henry had two children, one son Hugh William (1907-1966) (who had one son James William) and one daughter Annie Lillian who was married to Edgar MacKean (no issue).

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J.G.R.