

DAVIDSON

*Davidson
Fam.*

DAVIDSON



Your Clan Heritage

Clan
DAVIDSON

DAVIDSON





Modern Davidson



Ancient Davidson



Ancient Davidson of Tulloch



CLAN
DAVIDSON
Extensively Revised

COMPILED BY
Alan McNie

CASCADE PUBLISHING COMPANY
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Genealogical Research:

Research regrettably cannot be undertaken by the publisher. A non-profit organisation, The Scots Ancestry Research Society, 3 Albany Street, Edinburgh, undertake research for an agreed fee.

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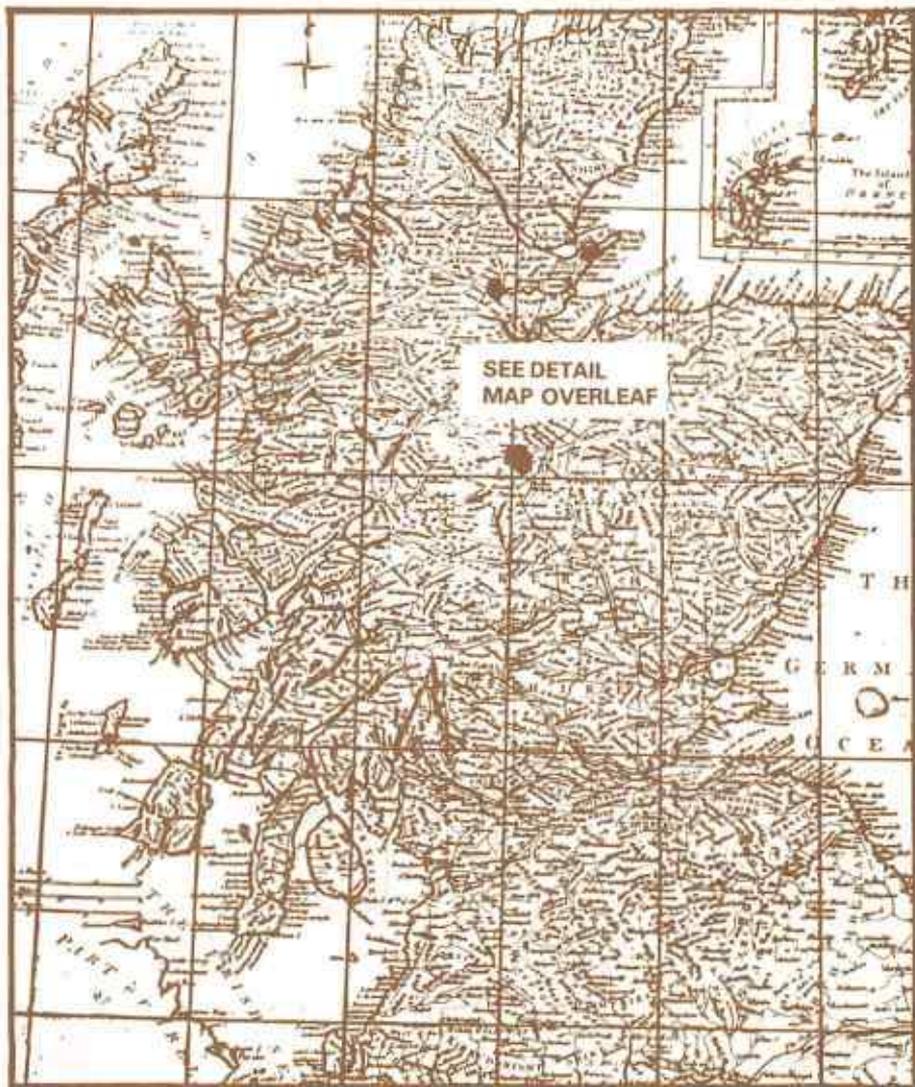
Page 1 Explanation:

The illustrated tartan is the modern Davidson. The motto on the crest badge means 'Wisely if sincerely'. In the artist's montage the former clan seat, Tulloch Castle, is depicted along with Cranberry, a clan plant badge.

Davidson Country

DETAIL MAP OVERLEAF

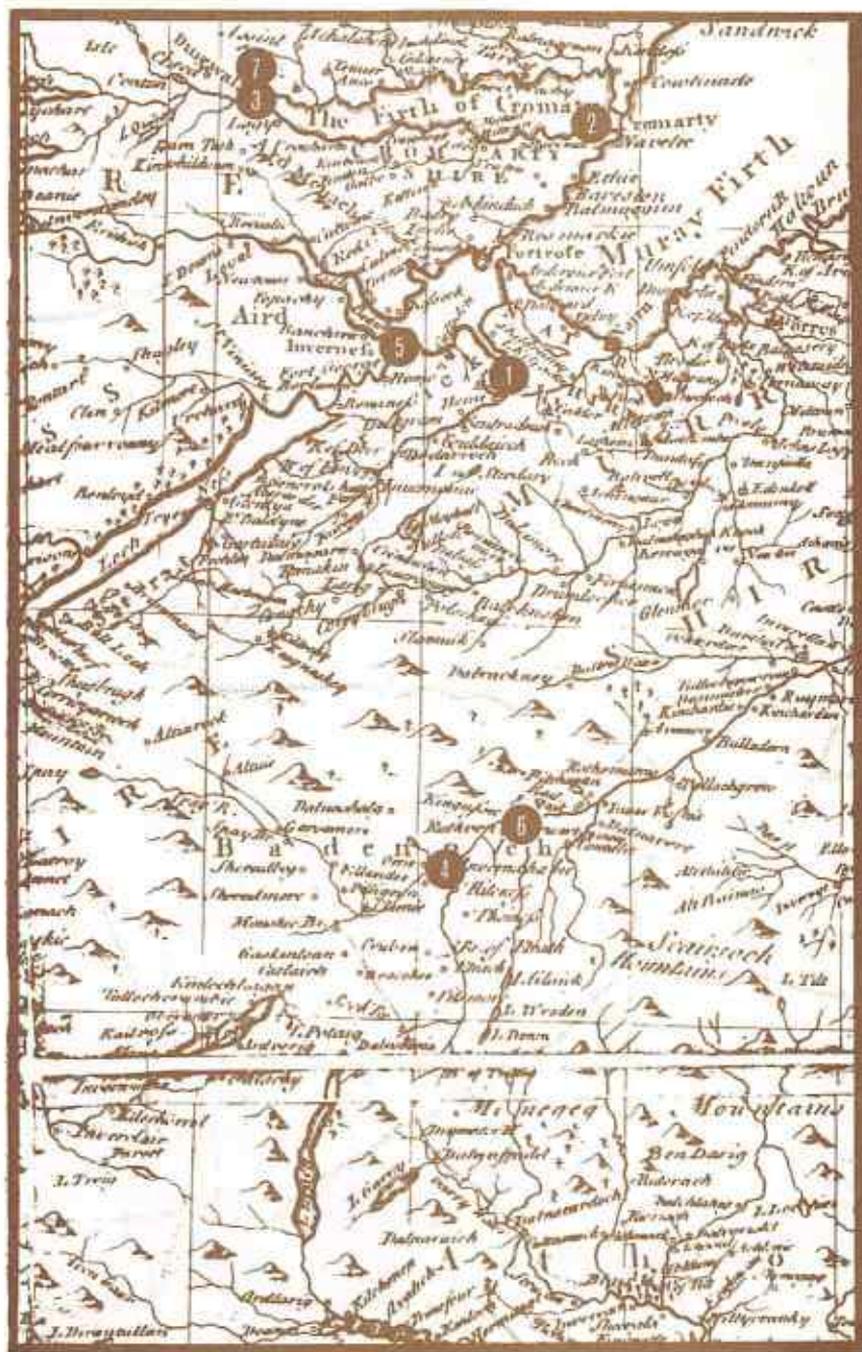
The map used below and on the following page is intended basically as a pictorial reference. It is accurate enough, however, to be correlated with a current map. The clan boundaries are only marginally correct. No precise boundaries were kept in early times and territories were fluctuating frequently.

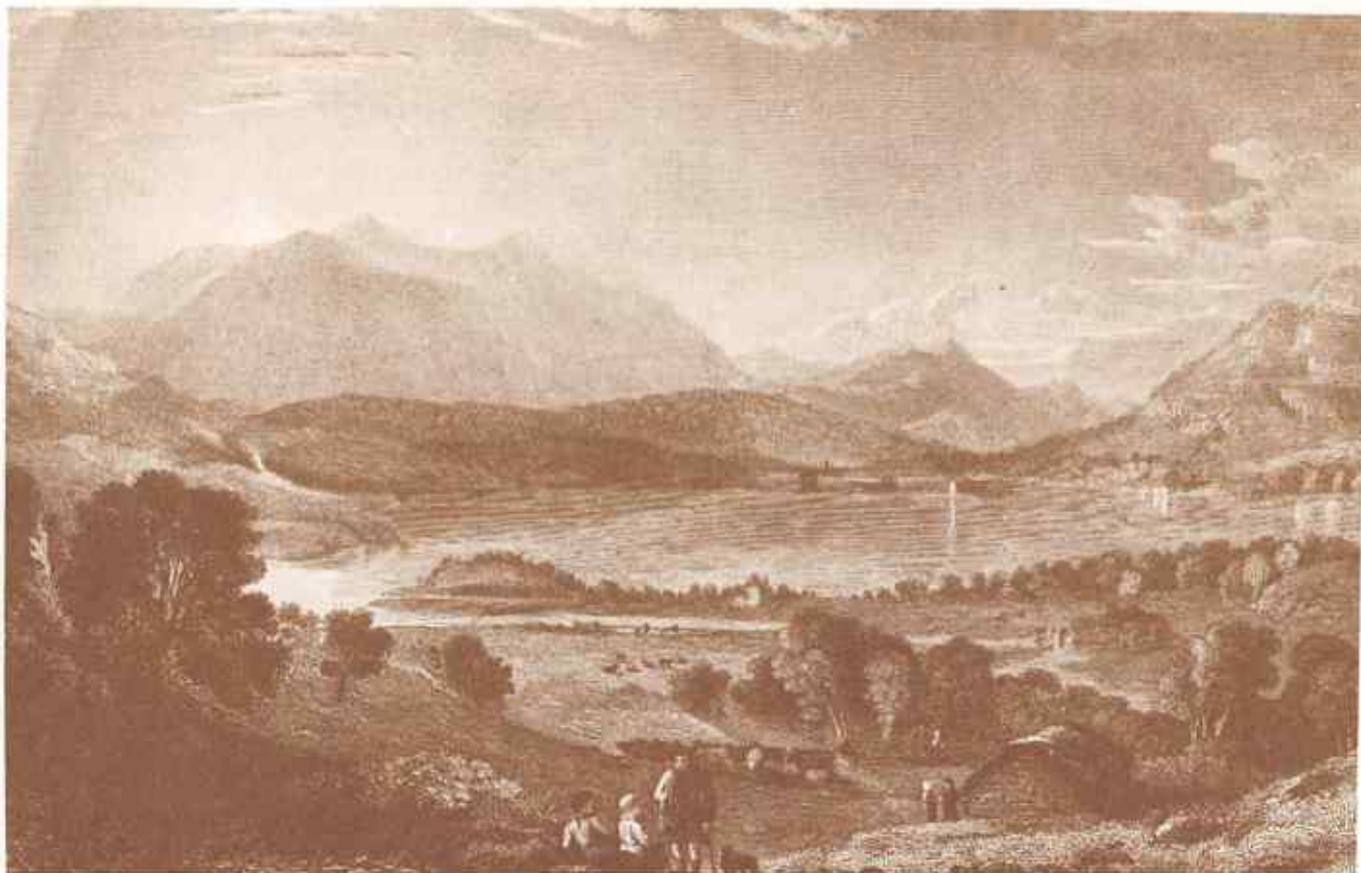


Davidson

CLAN MAP

1. **Cantray** Leading Davidson family
2. **Cromarty** By 17th century Davidsons established here
3. **Dingwall Castle** Hereditary Keeper was clan Davidson chief
4. **Invernahovon** Chiefs settle here in very early clan times
5. **Inverness** Many clan associations
6. **Kingussie** Possible origin of Davidsons
7. **Tulloch Castle** Former clan seat of Davidsons





Loch Laggan *Near Invernahavon*



CLAN
DAVIDSON

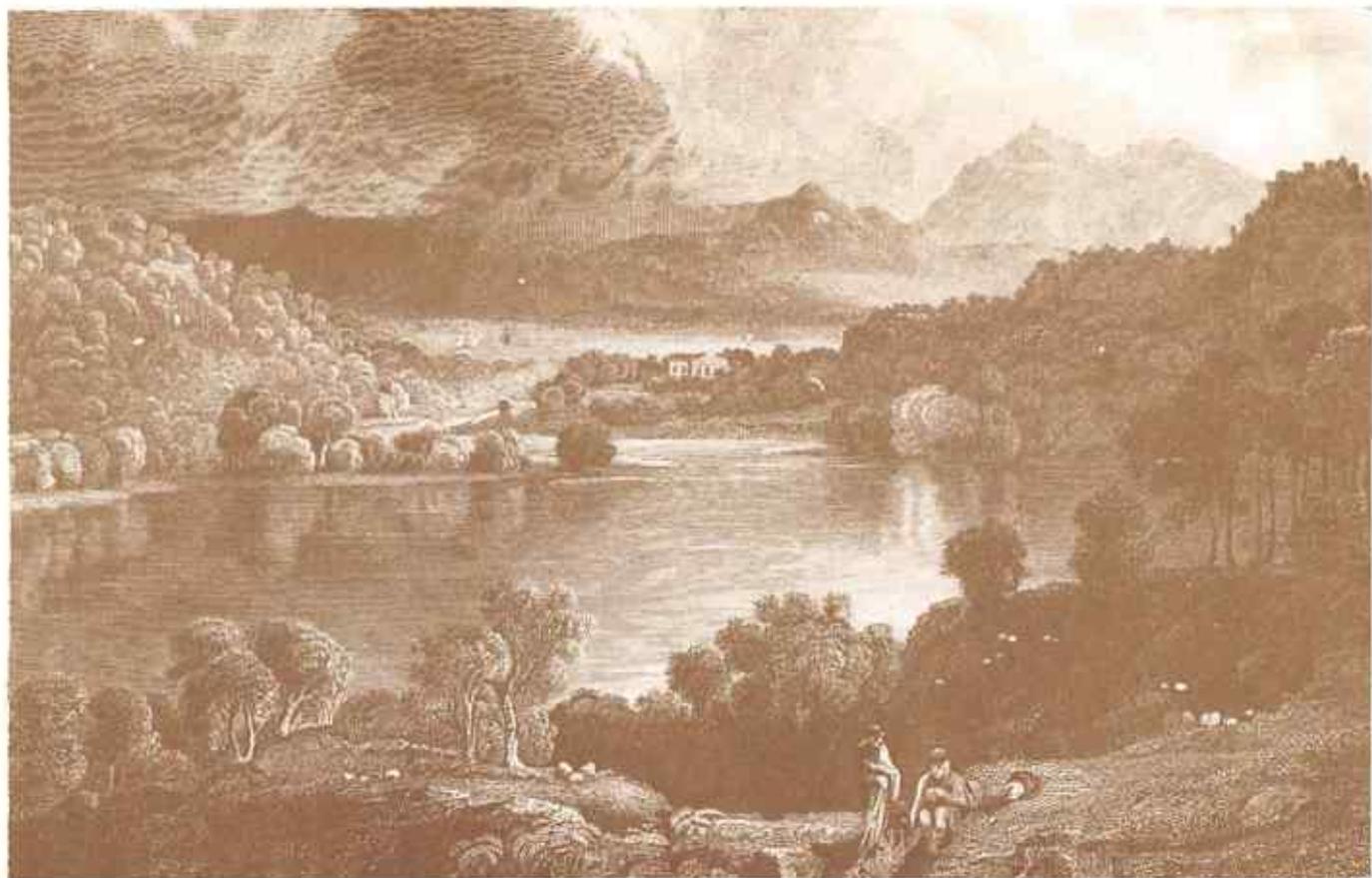
*Condensed from Highland Clans of Scotland
 George Eyre-Todd, 1923*

According to the Highland manuscript believed to be written by one MacLauchlan, bearing the date 1467, and containing an account of the genealogies of Highland clans down to about the year 1450, which was accepted as authoritative by Skene in his *Celtic Scotland*, and believed to embody the common tradition of its time, the origin of the Davidsons is attributed to a certain Gillicattan Mhor, chief of Clan Chattan in the time of David I. This personage, it is stated, had two sons, Muirich Mhor and Dhai Dhu. From the former of these was descended Clan Mhuirich or Macpherson, and from the latter Clan Dhai or Davidson. Sir Aeneas Macpherson, the historian of the clan of that name, states that both the Macphersons and the Davidsons were descended from Muirich, parson of Kingussie in the twelfth century. Against this statement it has been urged that the Roman kirk had no parson at Kingussie at that time. But this fact need not militate against the existence of Muirich at that place. The Culdee church was still strong in the twelfth century, and, as its clergy were allowed to marry, there was nothing to hinder Muirich from being the father of two sons, the elder of whom might carry on his name, and originate Clan Macpherson, while the younger, David, became ancestor of the Davidsons. Still another account is given in the Kinrara MS. upon

which Mr A. M. Mackintosh, the historian of Clan Mackintosh, chiefly relies: This MS. names David Dubh as ancestor of the clan, but makes him of the fourteenth century, and declares him to be of the race of the Comyns. His mother, it says was Slane, daughter of Angus, sixth chief of the Mackintoshes, and his residence was at Nuid in Badenoch. Upon the whole, it seems most reasonable to accept the earliest account, that contained in the MS. of 1467, which no doubt embodied the traditions considered most authentic in its time.

The chiefs of the Davidsons are said to have been settled in early times at Invernahavon, a small estate in Badenoch, at the junction of the Truim with the Spey, and when they emerge into history in 1370 or 1386 the holders of the name appear to have been of considerable number, and in close alliance with the Mackintoshes from whose forebears they claim descent.

The event known as the battle of Invernahavon is well known as a landmark in Highland history. According to commonly accepted tradition, the older Clan Chattan, descended from Gilliecattan Mhor of the time of Malcolm Canmore or David I., saw the line of its chiefs come to an end in the latter days of the thirteenth century in the person of an only child, a daughter named Eva. This heiress in 1291 married Angus, the young sixth chief of the Mackintoshes, who along with her received from Gilpatrick, his father-in-law, not only the lands of Glenlui and Locharkaig, but also the chiefship of Clan Chattan. The lands of Glenlui and Locharkaig, however, appear to have been seized and settled by the Camerons, and eighty or ninety years later the dispute regarding their ownership came to a head. After many harryings of the Camerons by the Mackintoshes and of the Mackintoshes by the Camerons, it appears that in 1370 or 1386 – accounts differ as to the date – a body of some four hundred Camerons made an incursion into Badenoch. As they returned laden with booty they were intercepted at Invernahavon by Lachlan Mackintosh, the eighth chief, with a body of Clan Chattan which included not only Mackintoshes but Macphersons and Davidsons, each led by its respective chieftain. At the moment of attack a dispute arose between the chiefs of these two septs as to which should have the honour of commanding Clan Chattan's right wing. Macpherson claimed the honour as male representative of the chiefs of the older Clan Chattan; Davidson, on



Loch Arkaig



Great Seal of Robert III

the other hand, insisted that he should have the post as the oldest cadet.

These claims would appear to uphold the account of the origin of these two septs which derives them, not from the Mackintoshes but from Gilliecattan Mhor, chief of the older Clan Chattan.

Mackintosh, forced to decide in the urgency of the moment, gave the post of honour to the Davidson chief, and as a result, the Macphersons, highly offended, withdrew from the battle. As a result of this, the Mackintoshes and Davidsons, greatly outnumbered, were routed and cut to pieces. What followed is the subject of a tradition given by Bishop Mackintosh in his *History of Moray*. According to this tradition Mackintosh sent his bard to the Macpherson camp, where he treated the Macphersons round their camp fires to a taunting ballad describing the cowardice of men who forsook their friends in the hour of danger. This, it is said, so enraged the Macpherson chief that he forthwith called his men to arms, and fell upon the Camerons in their camp at midnight, where he cut them to pieces, and put them to flight.

This battle at Invernahavon appears to have been one of the incidents which directly led up to the famous combat of "threttie against threttie" before King Robert III. on the North Inch of Perth in 1396. According to the chronicler Wyntoun, the parties who fought in that combat were the Clan Quhele and the Clan Kay, and authorities have always differed as to who these clans were. According to some, the battle was a direct outcome of the mutual jealousy of the Macphersons and Davidsons following the rupture at Invernahavon; and the Gaelic name of the Davidsons, Clan Dhail, which might easily be mistaken by a Lowland chronicler for Kay, lends some superficial colour to the claim. It is scarcely likely, however, that the Macphersons and Davidsons were at that time so important as to warrant a great national trial by combat such as that on the North Inch, which has made such a striking mark in Scottish history. The probability seems rather to be that the combat within the barriers before King Robert III. was between Clan Chattan as a whole and Clan Cameron. According to the Kinrara MS., Clan Quhewil was led on the North Inch by a Mackintosh chieftain, Shaw, founder of the Rothiemurcus branch of the family.

MacIan, in his *Costumes of the Clans of Scotland*, is evidently seeking a pretext when he asserts that it was mortification at defeat

on the North Inch which drove the Davidsons into obscurity, and finally induced the chief with some of his followers to remove further north, and settle in the county of Cromarty. It seems more likely that the decimation of their ranks at Invernahavon, and the losses caused by subsequent feuds, so reduced the numbers of the clan as to render it of small account during the succeeding century.

Lachlan Shaw in his MS. history of Moray states that early in the seventeenth century the Invernahavon family changed its name from Davidson to Macpherson, the individual who did so being James of Invernahavon, commonly called Seumas Lagach, great-grandfather of John of Invernahavon. But Mr A. M. Mackintosh, the historian of Clan Chattan, has ascertained that the James of Invernahavon referred to was son of a John Macpherson, who, according to Sir Aeneas Macpherson's MS., had feued the property. It can thus be seen how Lachlan Shaw made the mistake of supposing that the Davidsons of Invernahavon had changed their name.

The historian of Clan Chattan above referred to offers another theory to account for the comparative disappearance of Clan Davidson from the historic page, by pointing out that two of the name were concerned in the murder of Lachlan, the fourteenth Mackintosh chief, in 1524. One of these two, Milmoir MacDhaibhidh, was the chief's foster-brother, but believed that Mackintosh had helped to destroy his prospects of marrying a rich widow, and accordingly, on 25th March, along with John Malcolmson and other accomplices, fell upon the chief and slew him while hunting at Ravoch on the Findhorn. For this deed the three assassins were seized and kept in chains in the dungeon of Loch-an-Eilan till 1531, when, after trial, Malcolmson was beheaded and quartered, and the two Davidsons were tortured, hanged, and had their heads fixed on poles at the spot where they committed the crime. Mr Mackintosh also points out that another Davidson, Donald MacWilliam vic Dai dui, conspired with the son of the above John Malcolmson against William, the fifteenth Mackintosh chief in 1550, when the head of that chief was brought to the block by the Earl of Huntly at Strathbogie. The Davidsons who did these things, however, were merely servants and humble holders of the name, and their acts can hardly have brought the whole clan into serious disrepute.

That the Davidsons did not altogether cease to play a part in



Rothiemurchus Castle, Loch-an-Eilean

important events is shown by an entry in the Exchequer Rolls (iv. 510) in 1429. This is a record of a distribution of cloth of divers colours to Walter Davidson and his men by command of the King, and the gift is taken to be possibly an acknowledgment of the loyalty of the Davidson chief and his clan during the Highland troubles of the year.

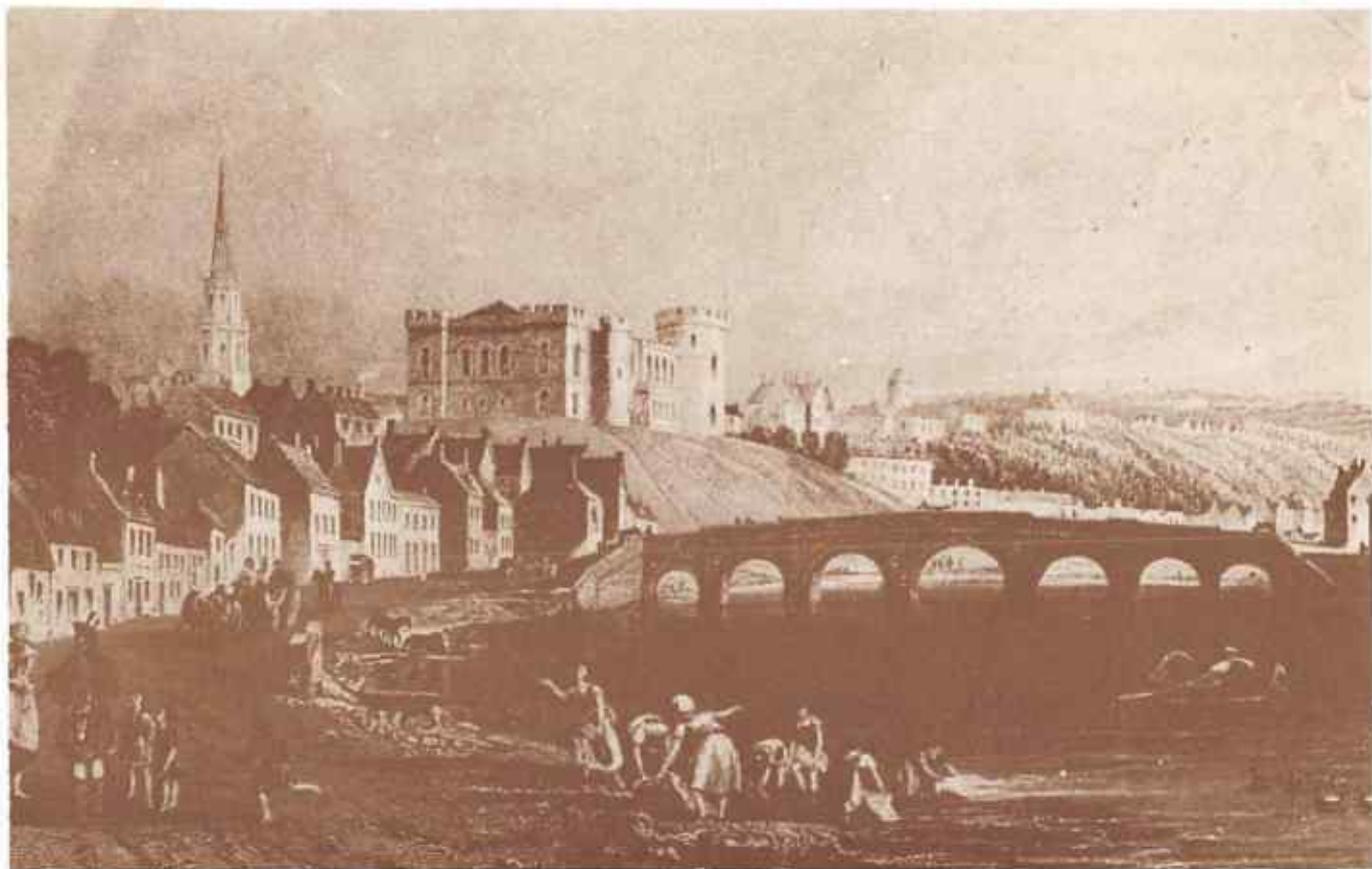
Later popular tradition has associated the Davidsons with the estate of Davidston in Cromarty, the laird of which is mentioned in 1501 and 1508, in the course of a legal action taken against Dingwall and Tain by the Burgh of Inverness. Here again, however, the historian of Clan Chattan has pointed out that, according to Fraser Mackintosh's *Invernessiana*, pages 175-184, the owners of the estate of Davidston were a family named Denoon or Dunound.

In any case, however, the Davidsons had taken root in this neighbourhood. In the second half of the seventeenth century Donald Davidson owned certain land and other property in Cromarty. His son, Alexander Davidson, was town clerk of the county town, and his son William succeeded him in the same office. In 1719 this William Davidson married Jean, daughter of Kenneth Bayne of Knockbayne, nephew and heir of Duncan Bayne of Tulloch. The son of this pair, Henry Davidson, born in 1729, made a great fortune as a London West India merchant. His wife was the daughter of a shipmaster of Cromarty, who was son of Bernard MacKenzie, last Bishop of Ross. In 1763, when the estate of Tulloch was sold by the creditors of the ancient owners, the Baynes, it was purchased by Henry Davidson for £10,500, and has since been the seat of his family.

On the death of Henry Davidson, first of Tulloch, in 1781, he was succeeded by his brother Duncan. This laird was an energetic and notable man in his day. On the Tulloch estate he carried out vast improvements, including the reclamation of a great stretch of land from the sea, and the construction of the main road from Dingwall to the North. He was provost of Dingwall from 1784 till 1786, and MP for Cromarty from 1790 to 1796. This laird's son, Henry, was, like his uncle, a successful West India merchant in London, and, like his father, was a great planter of woods and reclaimer of land. His son, Duncan, the fourth laird of Tulloch, began life as an officer in the Grenadier Guards. His first wife was a daughter of the third Lord MacDonald, and his return to Parliament as member for Cromarty



Moray Firth *Important branch at Cromarty*



Inverness.

in 1826 was the occasion of great celebrations in the countryside. As a politician he was chiefly noted for his opposition to the Reform Bill. An enthusiastic sportsman, he was the reviver of horse racing at the Northern Meeting at Inverness, and he drove the first coach which ran from Perth to Inverness, on the Queen's birthday in 1841. At his death in 1881 he was succeeded by his eldest son, Duncan, who married Georgina, daughter of John MacKenzie, M. B., of the Gareloch family, and in turn died in 1889. His son, the sixth laird, who was born in 1865, married in 1887 Gwendoline, daughter of William Dalziel MacKenzie of Farr and of Fawley Court, Buckinghamshire. He was trained for a commercial career, but after fourteen years in London, his health breaking down, he retired to live at Tulloch. He took an active part in county business, was a J.P., D.L., and Honorary Sheriff-Substitute, as well as county commissioner for the Boy Scouts and chairman of various county boards. A keen sportsman and horticulturist, he took a lively interest in farming, gardening, shooting, fishing, and all games, and as a reflection of his tastes the gardens and policies of Tulloch Castle were among the most beautiful in the north.

Tulloch is an ancient barony held by rights from the Crown. The first Davidson lairds took much pleasure in filling the castle with valuable portraits and works of art, and it was a cause of much regret when in July, 1845, the castle was burned down and most of its contents destroyed.

On 25th March, 1909, with a view to the formation of a Clan Davidson Society, the Laird of Tulloch called a meeting of holders of the name at the Hotel Metropole in London. Some sixty members of the clan were present, when it was proposed, seconded, and carried that Davidson of Tulloch be recognised and acknowledged as chief of the clan. The act was questioned in a letter to the *Northern Chronicle*, in which the writer pointed out that, while for a long period of years writers on Highland history had all pointed to Tulloch as the chief, this must be taken as an error seeing that The Mackintosh was the only chief of Clan Chattan. In proof of this statement, it was pointed out that in 1703 twenty persons named Dean *alias* Davidson had at Inverness signed a band of namerent declaring that they and their ancestors had been followers, dependents, and kinsmen to the

lairds of Mackintosh, and were still in duty bound to own and maintain the claim, and to follow, assist, and defend the honourable person of Lachlan Mackintosh of that ilk as their true and lawful chieftain. A long correspondence followed pro and con, but it was pointed out by later writers that the acknowledgment of Mackintosh by twenty Davidsons as supreme head of the Clan Chattan confederacy did not prevent the Davidson sept from possessing and following a chief of their own. As a matter of fact, history shows them to have had a chief at the battle of Invernahavon, and by all the laws of Highland genealogy the clansmen were fully entitled to meet and confirm the claim of their present leader and head.

Two other landed families of the name in the north are the Davidsons of Cantray and the Davidsons of Inchmarlo. The former are believed to have been settled on the lands of Cantray, an ancient property of the Dallases, for at least two hundred years. In 1767-8 the lands of Cantray and Croy were purchased by David Davidson, son of William Davidson and Agnes MacKercher, who afterwards added Clava to the estate. This laird married Mary, daughter of George Cuthbert of Castlehill, Sheriff-Substitute of Inverness and is alluded to in the statistical account of 1842 as "a man of singular sagacity, of most active powers of mind, and practical good sense," and as "a liberal-minded and fatherly landlord." His son, another David, was knighted by King George III, and his grandson, Hugh Grogan, the fifth laird, was convener of the country of Inverness. His son, Hugh was an officer of the Seaforth Highlanders, and the Afghan War of 1880, for which he held a medal.

Inchmarlo, again, was purchased in 1838 by Duncan Davidson, son of John Davidson of Tilliechetly and Desswood on Deeside.

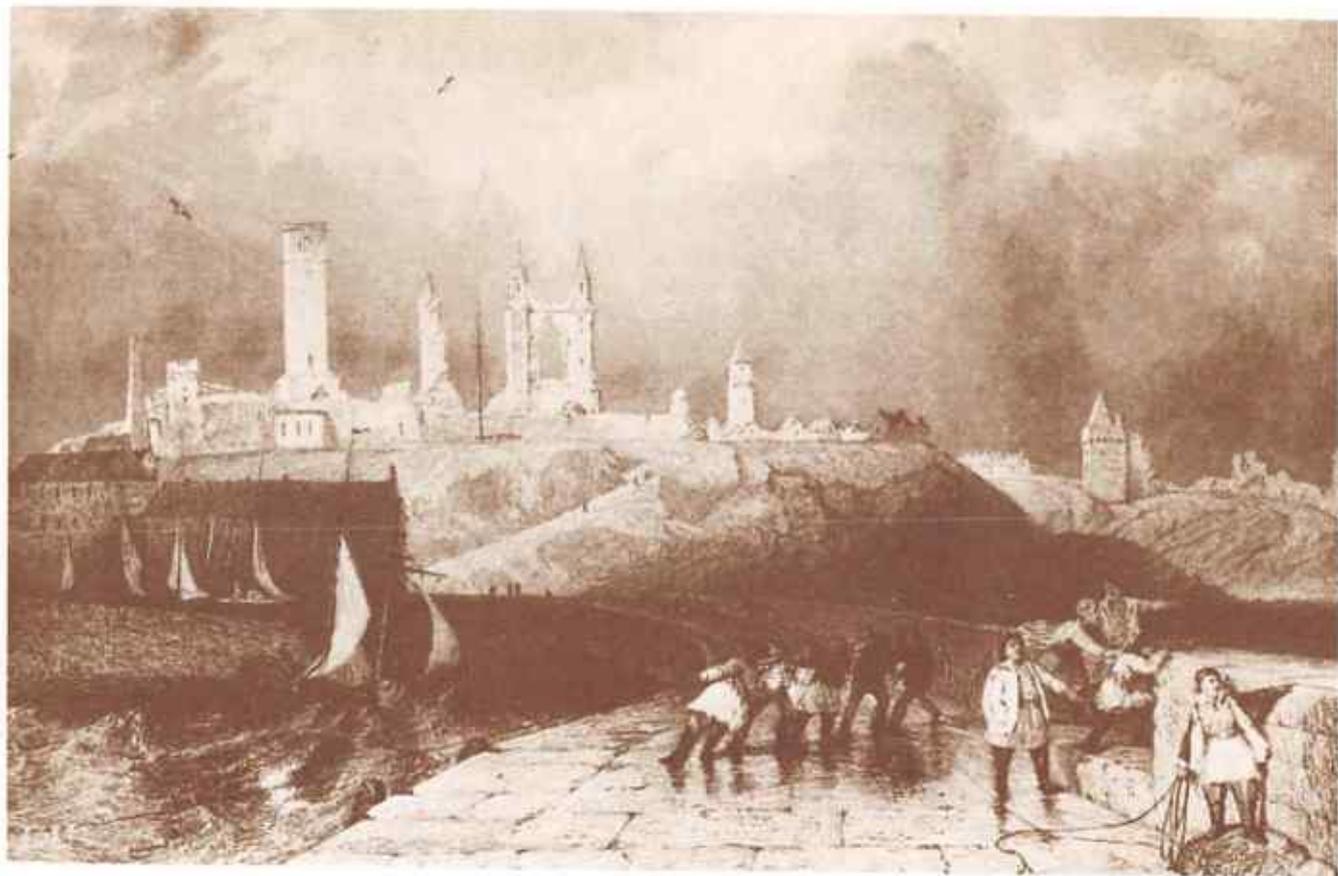
Among notable holders of the name of Davidson mention must be made of the redoubtable provost of Aberdeen, Sir Robert Davidson, who led the burghers of the city at the battle of Harlaw in 1411, and gallantly fell at their head. It is said to be his armour which is still treasured in the vestibule of the City Chambers at Aberdeen, and when the great old church of St Nicholas in that city was being repaired a generation ago, his skeleton was recognised by a red cloth cap with which he had been buried.

Another notable clansman was John Davidson, Regent of St



Mackintosh

Illustrated by McIan in mid-19th century 'Clans of the Scottish Highlands'



St Andrews

Leonard's College at St Andrews in the days of Queen Mary, and afterwards the minister of Liberton near Edinburgh, who quarrelled with the Regent Morton, opposed the desire of James VI to restore prelacy, excommunicated Montgomerie, Bishop of Glasgow, at the desire of the General Assembly in 1582, and was author of *Memorials of His Time*.

All of the name of Davidson are not necessarily members of the clan, but those of Highland descent are still numerous enough to afford a large following.

Clan background excerpts from book referred to on facing page

The armorial bearings are azure, on a fess between three pheons, arg. a stag corchant gules, attired with ten tynes, or. Crest, a falcon's head, couped, proper. In addition, Tulloch carries the insignia of the Baynes, the MacDonalds of the Isles, Andersons of Udale, Fergussons of Kilkerran, etc.

The suaicheantas, or badge, is that common to the whole Clan-Chattan: Lus nam Braoileag, Red whortle berry, *Vaccinium vitis idea*.

The peculiarity in this sketch is the manner in which the plaid is put on. It is a mode of wearing it chiefly observable among the western Highlanders, and is particularly suitable for the stormy climate to which the figure is represented as being exposed. The two corresponding ends of the plaid are fastened together as it hangs over the shoulders: then passing the part so joined around the neck, the back of the plaid being previously drawn over the head, it is retained in that position, forming a sort of cowl, or hood, and thus the whole body is enveloped so that the wearer has a comfortable protection from the rigours of a Caledonian winter. There is nothing remarkable in the hose or brogs.



The McIan illustration of Davidson as published (mid-19th century) in 'The Clans of the Scottish Highlands'

Davidson Associated Names

Associated names have a hazy history. Sometimes they had more than one origin; also clouding the precise location of a particular surname might be that name's proscription or of course a migrant population. Even the spelling of surnames was subject to great variations, shifting from usually Latin or Gaelic and heeding rarely to consistent spelling. In early records there can be several spellings of the same name. Undoubtedly contributing to this inconsistency is the handwriting in official records, which was often open to more than one spelling interpretation.

With regard to the 'Mac' prefix, this was, of course, from the Gaelic meaning, son of. It wasn't long before it was abbreviated to 'Mc' or 'M', until we have reached the position now where there are more 'Mc's' than 'Mac's'.

DAVIE, DAVEY DAVY Diminutives of David. Meg Davy is listed as an Aberdonian resident, 1408. James Davie, resident of Carnwath, 1659. Edward Davie, recorded as portioner of Torbean, Linlithgow.

DAVIS, DAVISON Sometimes variants of Davidson.

DAWSON Originating from Dawe, a diminutive of David, with 'son' suffix. John Dawson listed in Coupar Angus area, 1466. Robert Dawson, an Uchtermuchty tenant, 1531. In 1541 David Dawson was a monk of Beaulieu. Joannes Dasone resided in Finhome, 1627.

DAY, DEAY Originating from colloquial Gaelic Daidh, David. Established family in Mortlach, Banffshire. Robert Day was a Dunblane area resident, 1727. Dr. William Day was distinguished student of Aberdeen University. Also in Aberdeen, Agnes Chrystall Dey was a poetess.

DEAN Associated with Davidson this name was used as a Davidson alias by William Dean and his ancestors in 1703, who at that time declared themselves Mackintosh followers.

DEAS Another derivation from Davidson. James Dais was Dundee resident, 1611. Stabler Andrew Daes, listed in Edinburgh, 1627. John Deas lived in Dunnichen, Forfarshire, 1683.

DOW Its Davidson origins as a variant of Daw, a diminutive of David. Donald Dow served as minister at Kilmarnock and other churches, 1574. Willzeme Dow was Strathdee resident, 1527.

KAY, KEAY As a Davidson name, this name originates at source as the clan name known as Clan Dai or Kay. The name also has Clan Mackay association. Donald Ka was an Aberdeen resident, 1399.

MACDADE, MACDAID These Glasgow area names are from the Irish MacDaibheid, son of Davet, a diminutive of David.

MACKAY The MacKays of Inverness-shire are MacDhais or Davidson.

CLAN DAVIDSON SEPTS

DAVEY · DAVIE · DAVIS · DAVISON · DAWSON · DAY · DEA · DEAN · DEANE ·
DEAS · DEASON · DEY · DOW · DYE · KAY · KEAY · KEY · KEYS · MACDADE ·
MACDAID · MACDAVID · MACKAY · SLORA · SLORACH.

List of Emigrants assisted by the Highland and Island Emigration Society, and embarked on board the Ship *St. Alan McKis* which sailed from *Liverpool* for *Hobart Town* on the *28th October 1845*

Number	Name	Age	Residence	Estate	Remarks
	<i>Davidson Jane</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>Inverurie</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>Justice in law</i>
<i>540</i>	<i>Stewart Margery</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>Bonnie Side</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>Pro. Note £27. 17. 7 1/2 Poor family but very eligible.</i>
	<i>George</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>Gullgair</i>		
	<i>Whisky</i>	<i>27</i>			
	<i>Charles</i>	<i>23</i>			
	<i>Elphinstone</i>	<i>18</i>			
	<i>May</i>	<i>15</i>			
<i>541</i>	<i>Munro - John</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>Bonnie Side</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>Pro. Note £39. 2. 6 Excellent family.</i>
	<i>Stabilla</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>Gullgair</i>		
	<i>George</i>	<i>24</i>			
	<i>Ann</i>	<i>24</i>			
	<i>Alex^r</i>	<i>18</i>			



Loch Cullen *Near Tulloch Davidsons.*

Some Clan Notables

Davidson, John* (1549? – 1603) church leader, was born about 1549 at Dunfermline in Fifeshire, where his parents owned some property in houses and lands. He entered St Leonard's College, St Andrews, in 1567, and after graduating became a regent of the college, prosecuting also the study of theology. Becoming acquainted with John Knox he set himself to advance the cause of the Reformation, and one of his earliest services was the composing of a play, which was acted in presence of Knox, and was intended to expose the system of Romanism. Soon after he published a poem entitled 'Ane brief commendation of Uprichtness,' founded on 'the notabill document of Goddis mighty protection in preseruing his maist upright Servand and fervent Messenger of Christis Euangell, Iohne Knox.' This poem is given at length in the appendix to M' Crie's 'Life of Knox,' and in Dr Charles Roger's 'Three Scottish Reformers.' Soon after another poem was printed privately, 'Ane Dialog or Mutuall Talking betuix a Clerk and ane Courteour, concerning youre parische kirks till Ane Minister' (1570). This was a reflection on the regent Morton, who had been uniting parishes under one minister to secure part of the benefice for himself. When Morton heard of it Davidson was sentenced to imprisonment, but was soon liberated. He was obliged, however, to hide himself somewhere in Argyllshire, whence he fled to the continent, continuing in exile for three years.

In 1577 Morton allowed him to return, and in 1579 he became minister of Liberton near Edinburgh. In June 1581, when Morton was under sentence of death and on the eve of ignominious execution, Davidson and another minister went to him, but found him, to their surprise and joy, at one with them in his religious experience and hopes. He begged Davidson to forgive him, and assured him of his forgiveness for what he had said against him in his book. Davidson was moved to tears, and a very affecting farewell followed.

In 1582 he was presented to James VI, who had lately assumed the reins of government. To the king's desire to restore prelacy Davidson was always strenuously opposed. This led to much painful collision between them. Few men have ever spoken more freely to kings. Davidson would now reprove him for swearing, now hold him by the sleeve to prevent his going away, now remind him that in the church he was not king but a private christian, and now beg for the ministers the undisturbed right to reprove sinners. The king, much though he enjoyed an ecclesiastical tussle, disliked him both for his church views and his plain speaking.

The feeling in the Scotch church against prelacy was much intensified by injudicious methods used to recommend it. Among these was the sermon preached by Richard Bancroft at St Paul's Cross at the opening of parliament in February 1588-9, in which the divine right of bishops as a higher order than presbyters was maintained, and the orders of the Scotch church disparaged. Davidson at the request of the presbytery of Edinburgh published a reply, which was suppressed by order of the king. It became very scarce. Part of it is republished in the 'Miscellany' of the Wodrow Society.

In 1595 the terror of Philip II of Spain, which had subsided for a time after the destruction of his armada, began to spread anew over the country. The privy council imposed a tax, to raise which the consent of the general assembly was necessary. On the motion of Davidson a resolution was passed by the assembly that humiliation for sin was the first and best preparation against a hostile invasion of the country. The king was alarmed and made some concession. Carrying out their resolution the assembly met in order that the ministers might humble themselves before God. Davidson preached on the sins of the ministry. An extraordinary scene took place, the whole assembly being melted into tears. No discourse had ever been known to produce such an impression.

In February 1599 a proposal of the king that certain of the clergy should sit and vote in parliament was being discussed in the synod of Fife. Davidson opposed the scheme as an insidious attempt to introduce prelacy, saying, in words that became famous afterwards, 'Busk him, busk him, as bonnily as ye can, and bring him in as fairly as ye will, we see him well enough, we see the horns of his mitre.'

The contest with the king was carried on on various subsequent occasions, Davidson making himself obnoxious to James by his firm protests against the royal measures. At one time royal commissioners appeared before the presbytery of Haddington requiring them to prosecute him for his misdemeanors and offences. The presbytery, after consideration and inquiry, let the matter drop. Unable to attend the general assembly at Burntisland in 1601, he wrote a letter warning his brethren against the devices of Delilah. For this he was summoned before the king at Holyrood, and committed to Edinburgh Castle. Released next day, he was allowed to return to his parish, but interdicted from going beyond it. Various attempts were made to get this interdict removed, especially when the king, after succeeding to the English throne, was passing through Prestonpans on his way to England on 5 April 1603. A deputation met him there, and entreated his clemency for the minister, who had long been sick. 'I may be gracious,' said the king, 'but I will be also righteous, and until he confesses his fault he may lie and rot there.' Davidson died soon after, about the end of August 1603.

Davidson, Thomas* (1817-1885), palaeontologist, was born in Edinburgh

on 17 May 1817, his family being extensive land proprietors in Midlothian. From the age of six he was educated in France, Italy, and Switzerland, and soon showed marked talents for natural history and painting. He passed several years in Paris attending the best scientific lectures, and in 1832 the reading of Lyell's 'Principles of Geology,' together with the teaching and companionship of Constant Prevost, led him to give much attention to geology and palæontology. After a short period of study at Edinburgh University in 1835-6, Davidson returned in 1836 to the continent, and made geological tours in several countries. In 1837 Von Buch, the distinguished Prussian geologist, induced him to devote himself to the study of the brachiopods, an important class of recent and fossil molluses, then much needing elucidation. For some years, however, he continued much attached to painting, and was a successful pupil of Paul Delaroche and Horace Vernet; and his artistic talent subsequently was of great value in producing an unrivalled series of plated illustrating his chosen study. Davidson continued to travel, study, and collect specimens, and at last undertook to write a monograph of the British fossil brachiopods for the Palæontographical Society. Its publication commenced in 1850 and ended in 1870, forming three large quarto volumes; but supplements afterwards appeared, the whole work making six volumes, containing over 3,000 pages of text and 250 plates, all the figures being executed by himself and presented to the society.

Throughout his life Davidson showed marked generosity and unselfishness, being ever ready to aid students. He interested himself greatly in the foundation of the free library and museum at Brighton, where he long resided, and he was permanent chairman of the museum committee at the time of his death. He bequeathed to the nation his valuable collection of recent and fossil brachiopods, together with his books and original drawings. They are preserved in the British Museum of Natural History at South Kensington.

Davidson, Thomas* (1838-1870), *Scottish poet, was of English extraction* his father, a shepherd, being a native of the neighbourhood of Wooler, and his mother of Belford. He was born at Onnam Row, near Oxnam Water, a tributary of the Teviot, about four miles from Jedburgh, 7 July 1838. He was educated at various village schools, and, having displayed in his early years a passionate love of books, was sent in 1854 to the Nest Academy at Jedburgh, with the view of preparing for the university of Edinburgh, which he entered in 1855. In 1859 he became a student of theology in the united presbyterian church, and was licensed as a preacher 2 February 1864, but never was settled in a charge. A cold caught in June 1866 seriously affected his health, and he died of consumption at Bank End, Jedburgh, 29 April 1870. Before he entered the university Davidson was in the habit of amusing himself in the composition of verses. In 1859 he obtained the second prize

in the rhetoric class for a poem on 'Ariadne at Naxos.' His friends discerned in the poem a finish and grace which seemed to entitle it to higher consideration, and one of them without his knowledge sent it to Thackeray, who inserted it with an illustration in the 'Cornhill Magazine' for December 1860. Davidson's enthusiasm for Scottish poetry and Scottish song had made him a centre of attraction to many kindred spirits at the university, and he was in the habit of composing verses which he sang to the old Scotch airs, to the 'great delight of all.' Occasionally he sent songs and short poems to the 'Scotsman.' Most of his verses have a touch of pathos in them, relieved, however, by the never-failing humour which was one of his strongest characteristics. The song 'Myspie's Den' is worthy almost to rank with the love ballads of Burns, and the 'Auld Ash Tree' with its weird refrain, 'To weary me, to weary me,' strikes the minor key in tones the mournful charm of which cannot be resisted. On the other hand, he exhibited the prodigality of his humour in the 'Yang-Tsi-Kiang,' an extravaganza, which, after being made use of by the supporters of Carlyle in the contest for the lord rectorship of the university, has continued to retain its popularity as a students' song.

Davidson, Thomas (1840 – 1900) Eccentric philosopher who was born in the parish of Red Deer, Aberdeenshire. Of humble origins this gifted enigmatic Scot soon distinguished himself at the parish school and King's College, Aberdeen, where he won the highest honours in Greek. The first years following graduation he followed a conventional teaching career in Scotland, England, Canada and America. But the changes of country were symptomatic of a restless mind.

In America he associated with other philosophers who inspired him to deeper philosophical thought, but he could never fit into a niche. He received some satisfaction for a period by earning money in America for six months: teaching, lecturing and writing; while the rest of the year was spent immersing himself even more deeply in Hellenic art and culture, as well as other philosophical and cultural pursuits.

This highly individualistic man threw himself wholeheartedly in latter years into a lower East Side New York development designed to stretch eager youngsters.

A remarkable man with an infectious personality and a prodigious memory, he spoke nearly all the major languages of Europe.

Davidson, James (1865 – 1936) Born near Stanley, Victoria, Australia of Scottish parents this outstanding contributor to the wool industry began work at 12 and by 16 was shearing sheep. The shearing machine became his lifelong interest and he made substantial improvements in shearing machines. In 1909 this ambitious agriculturalist was successful with a design for a shearing machine.

**Extracts from Dictionary of National Biography, 1899*

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Davidson Family

This book depicts a gripping — often grim — clan struggle set paradoxically amongst some of the world's most stunning scenery. The centuries are pushed back to chronicle the clan's exciting past. Giving visual impetus to this saga are numerous period illustrations — printed in sepia. These enchanting clan mementoes painstakingly capture the subject in hand with loving care.

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