

# Brief History of the Clan - *Clan History - Irish / Scottish Roots*

## Abbreviated Version

Our ancestors were known as "**Dalriadians OR Dal Riata**" and left Cashel in **463 AD** for the 12-month journey to Perthshire in Scotland, where they settled in 464AD. The first McConaghy was registered in Perthshire in 1100 AD and this region of Scotland (*Rannoch*) was the place where the original "Dalriadians" decided to settle. The Robertson Clan of Scotland is derived from a descendant of Duncan. Our Ancestral Chief - "**The Chief of Donnachaidh Remhar**" also known as "**Duncan the Fat**" with its Gaelic name coming from "*Clan Donnachaidh*".

Duncan's great grandson was Robert or as he was known "**Reoch**", meaning "**the Swarthy**". Others say his second Gaelic name was "*Riabhadh*", meaning "*Grizzled*". It was Robert's son, Alexander, who adopted the name "**ROBERTSON**" (*son of Robert*) which has been passed down ever since and so began the Clan Robertson. The historian, William F Skene, states that "**The Robertsons of Struan, in Perthshire, are the oldest family in Scotland, and are descended from the earliest Scottish kings**". His descendants are well known for supporting their kinsman, Robert the Bruce, during the wars of Scottish independence which culminated in Bruce's victory at Bannockburn on June 24, 1314 over Edward II and his army. For the clan's part in that battle, Robert the Bruce gave the Clan the north part of the lands called Rannoch.

It was a Robertson of Struan who captured the murderers of James 1 and as a reward he chose to have his lands of Strowan raised to a Barony and took for his motto '**Glory, the Reward of Valour**'. The Robertsons were intensely loyal to the House of Stuart and in 1652 the army of Oliver Cromwell attacked and defeated Scottish royalists. For safety's sake, due to religious or tribal disputes, many of the clan took other forms of their name, like; Connachie, MacConnachie, McConachy, McConaghy and many more.

The name is derived from **Mac** or **Mc** meaning "**son of**", **V'** meaning "**grandson of**" and Connachie meaning "**Duncan**", and this is one of the many ways the name McConachy & its derivatives came into being.

Some clans such as Connachie, *MacConnachie*, Maconachie, *McConochie*, McConachie, *McConnachie* and *V'Conachie*, etc stayed in the North East Highlands of Scotland OR the Northern regions of England. From these clans they have migrated to many parts of the globe including Australia, Canada, and America. The other Clan - McConachy originally settled in "**Isle of Bute & Argyle**" in Scotland which was very close to Ireland by sea. From this location it was common place for Clan members to move between the Isle of Bute & the Northern Ireland region.

Between 1607 and 1640, many Scottish Protestant settlers moved to Northern Ireland after Londonderry was seized by James I and the land was made available for settlement to the English and Scottish. Some of our ancestors also moved to Ireland as farm labourers for their Scottish landlords.

There are multiple ways that the name McConachy is spelt in Ireland and we have sighted documents that have the name spelt in various formats such as: McConachy, *McConnachy*, McConechy, *McConaghy*, McConochie, *McConaughey*, McConnaughey, *McConnaughey*, McConahey, *McConahay*, McConeghey, *McConkey*, McConnaughty and *McConoughey*

**PLUS, another 50 + names that we are aware of.**