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Robertson - Genealogical Foundation

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GENEALOGICAL FOUNDATION

ROBERTSON. The Robertsons were unquestionably one of the oldest and most eminent families in Scotland, being the sole remaining branch of that royal house which occupied the throne and kingdom during the eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth centuries. They were descended from the ancient Earls of Athol, which house sprang from Duncan, King of Scotland, eldest son of Malcom III, surnamed Canmore. The ancient Celtic Earls of Athol were the ancestors of the Robertsons of Strowan. Crinan, Lord or Earl of Athol, Abbot of Dunkeld and Athlone of Dull, married Beatrice, daughter of King Malcom III. Crinan and Beatrice were the ancestors of all the Scottish Kings from Duncan I, to Alexander III., in the male line, except Macbeth, and were therefore of the Robertson blood. The name Robertson, meaning the son of Robert, is Saxon in its derivation, but the race was a Gaelic one. They fought under Sir William Wallace, the great patriot warrior, also served with distinction under Robert Bruce at Bannockburn, 1314, when with thirty-thousand Scots, he routed King Edward I, of England with a hundred thousand English troops. The family is traced from the Scottish Kings, beginning with Malcom III, (1057-1093) to the family in America. William E. Gladstone, Lord John Russell, Brougham, and Rev. William Robertson, D.D. were of the family. Several were members of the Scottish Parliament. One line is traced to King Edward I, of England. (Americans of Royal Descent.)

Robert I., (Bruce) was a son of Isabella, great-granddaughter of David I and thus the Robertson blood runs through all the Scottish Kings, down to James VI, as follows: Malcom III, 1004-1003; Duncan I, "The Gracious Duncan" of Shakespeare who was murdered by Macbeth in 1004, Malcom III, Duncan II, 1093-1095; Donald Bane, 1095-1098; Edgar, 1098-1107; Alexander I, 1107-1124; David I, 1124-1153; Malcom IV., 1153-1165; "Malcolm the Lion" 1165-1214; Alexander II, 1214-1246; Alexander III, 1249-1286; John I, 1392-1396; Robert I, married Joanna, daughter of Edward III, of England; Robert II, "Stewart" 1370-1390; son of Walter Stewart, great grandson of Walter Stewart of Scotland, and Margaret, daughter of Robert I, (Bruce); Robert III 1390-1406; James I, 1437-1460; Henry VII of England; James V, 1513-1542; Mary Queen of Scots, 1542-1567, daughter of James V; James VI, 1567-1625, son of Mary, as King of England, 1603-1625.

The ancient house of the Robertsons of Scotland was located principally in the highlands of Perthshire, although many lived in Aberdeenshire, Invernesshire, and other parts of the kingdom. They first appeared as a distant Clan in the year 1391 but were conspicuous almost a century previous to the wars for the defense and liberty of their country under Sir William Wallace. In 1347 Robertson of Strowan, chief of the clan, arrested Graham and the Earls of Athol, the murderers of King James I, of Scotland, and as a reward of that service, his lands were made a barony and he was granted an honorable addition to his coat-of-arms, consisting of a man lying in chains, a hand holding a royal crown and the motto, -"Virtutis Gloria Merces", meaning "Glory the Reward of Bravery". Alexander Robertson, a descendant of Robert Robertson, was

the first who bore the surname Robertson, ~~xxxxxx~~ Robert
He was the fifth Baron of Strowan, d.1507. He had John Robertson,
first Laird of Minton, Ellingshire, second son by his second wife, Lady
Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Stewart of Balloing, Earl of Athol (a
descendant of Edward 1, King of England) and his wife Lady Eleonar
Sinclair, a descendant of James 1, King of Scotland.

John Robertson married about 1500, Lady Margaret Creighton, a Great
grandaughter of James 11, King of Scotland. The Robertsons of America
are descendants of this marriage. John Robertson of Peterhead, Aber-
deen, -shire, Scotland, an ancestor of American Robertsons, had two bro-
thers:- Alexander of Callilhand, and William, who went to Kilkenny,
Ireland and married a daughter of Sir Richard Jones, and had William
and John. Charles Robertson of Inverness, Scotland, had a son Charles
who was ancestor six generations removed from Donald Robertson whose
father also named Charles, lived in the ancient district of Aberdeen-
shire. He was possessed of a considerable fortune and was recognized
as a gentleman of good breeding and family. His presence was imposing,
of fine education, and his manners were polite and agreeable. Two
children, both sons were born to him and his wife, viz:--Charles and
Donald, the latter b.1707, the father's loyalty to the house of Stewart
in the Scottish Rebellion, resulted in the confiscation of his estates
by the Crown, the son Donald, soon thereafter in 1752 came to the new
world, locating in Virginia.

References for Tracing Robertson Genealogy:

American Ancestry.
Barlow Genealogy.
Darling's Genealogy.
Robertson Genealogy.
New England Genealogy.
Massachusetts Genealogy.

The above publications can be found in the New York Public Library.

(Minatures)

Arms: Rules, three wolves heads erased, argent armed, and languid,
assure. Lying under the arms, a wild man, chained for a compartment.

Crest: A dextar arm and hand erect, holding a royal crown, all proper.
Supporters-Dexter, a serpent; sinister a dove; the heads of each encir-
cled with rays.

Motto: "Virtutis gloria merces."

John Robertson, (son of Donald?), came from Virginia to McDowell County, N. C., : then Burke County, for two "Hunting Seasons", prior to the year 1795. In 1795, John Robertson(father), and George Robertson (son), * born in 1779- came to Celo, Buncombe County, now Yancey County, N. C., and bought two hundred acres of land, at Mt. Celo, and he recorded that and an additional grant of one hundred acres,-from the State or government-, at the State House, Raleigh, N. C., in 1797 (Official Records, Raleigh, N. C.) The Robertson family still hold the original deed and grant--five generations.

John and George (age then 16 years) first built a one room log cabin, near the river Estatoe, named for Indian Cheif,s daughter, who drowned herself in the river, when her father refused to let her marry her Indian lover,)but they found it too cold and damp there, so they moved up on a sunny slope of Mt. Celo, above the river, and built a substantial log house, which house is still standing, August 24th, 1927.

John did not recover his health, though he was only a young man, died at Celo, Yancey County, N. C., in 1801, and was buried near his log cabin, by request. Just before his fathers death, George returned to Virginia, married Susannah Woody and brought her home to his father's house. Susan Woody, lived "On the James River," near Jamestown, Va. Ten children were born from this union, four sons and six daughters including William M. Robertson, who married in 1843, Racheal Silver, Grand daughter of George Silver, Maryland, who fought in the Revolutionary War, 1776-1787. George at one time "Saved the American Army", for which act, special recognition was givern by George Washington.

William and Racheal (Silver) Robertson had nine children,: including Meritt B. who married Margaret Lousia Roland, they had four children: three sons and a daughter, also a son by a second marriage. Wilburn Burdett, M. C. (son of the first marriage) married Marry Ella Skerry, Nova Scotia, Canada, and we have four children:-three girls and one boy living: Wilburn Burdett, Jr., age sisteen. We also have fine grand-children.