

Irving History

A compilation of information extracted mostly from published works about the Irving name.

Searching for our Irving ancestors has been disappointing because we can go back only a few generations to the mid-nineteenth century to our original immigrant to the North American continent. Yet, considerable information is known about individuals in antiquity who called themselves Irving who resided in today's Scotland and Ireland. I provide information about those early Irvings with the hope that someday information will surface connecting our known ancestor to relations in the United Kingdom.

I have compiled and condensed published research by historians, genealogists and family researchers about those who lived in Scotland and Ireland in centuries past who used the name Irving, or one of its variants. Those Irvings of antiquity were powerful, respected land owners in Scotland and Ireland. Even some early Scottish kings were of the Irving blood line.

There is a companion document named Forster History that addresses the ancestors of our family identifying possible Foster ancestors in the UK. The Foster History document includes information on UK history, heraldry, and other subjects which are pertinent to this Irving History.

Most of the information included in this paper is compiled from research conducted by others and believed to be accurate. I have included some original information to explain terms, location names and historical background to aid the reader. The majority of the information is an abridged history of those in the United Kingdom who called themselves by the name Irving.

What we know about the original Irving immigrant to North America is included to assist future researchers who can hopefully break the "Brick Wall" of where this ancestor came from and who his family was which then could provide clues to family connections to Irvings of antiquity.

The objective of this paper is to spawn an interest in the family history for future generations and to provide what we know so far in hopes the research continues.

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revised 2015*

Introduction

The objective of this document is to provide insight to the Irvings in the United Kingdom (UK). Since little is known about the origins of our earliest Irving ancestor in North America, compiling information about people with the name in the old country might help subsequent generations identify our Irving ancestors. I include some information about our earliest known ancestor, William Irving of Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada. The problem is connecting him with an Irving family in the UK.

Published works on Irving family history are few and not readily accessible. As is typical with historical records they record acts of prominent people, not the average citizen. While there were prominent members of the Irving Clan, our ancestors were probably average citizens. Other authors assumed the reader was intimate with the history of Scotland, Ireland and England, but I assume today's readers, especially in the United States, are not. Therefore, I include some relevant historical background for context.

The few published histories of the Irving surname all seem to support each other about the facts; so there is little controversy. Whether individual researchers uncovered the facts independently or used information from earlier researchers is not known. I suspect there is some of both in the original published works.

Sections of this document include:

- The Irving Surname – what it means and early use
- Ancient Times – beginning during the Roman occupation of Briton
- Kingdom of Alba – first millennium & the Ereviene Clan
- Anglo-Saxon to the Union of the Crowns - Medieval times, Irving kings & Independence
- Border Clan – Irvings defend Scotland and raid England
- Irvings in Ireland – Landowners in the Ulster Plantation
- Irving Coats of Arms - Arms of Bonshaw, Drum, and Castle Irvine
- Irving Locations – Locations in the UK significant to the Irvings
- Our Irving Line – Our known ancestor lived in Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada
- Glossary and Bibliography

Short Version

If all you desire is a one minute summary; the short version of Irving history is:

Either before or during the time of the Roman occupation of Briton (43 AD to 410 AD) a group of Gaels whose descendants would use the surname *Irving* settled on the west coast of Scotland at a place now named Irvine. In the early 11th century a member of this clan marries the daughter of the Scottish king and fathers a future king of Scotland beginning multiple Irving generations of Scottish kings. About

the same time some of this clan moved to southwest Scotland and settled east of today's town of Dumfries; thus are sometimes referred to as the Dumfries branch. Their land will be known as the *parish of Irving* with the family seat at Bonshaw estate (Bonshaw Tower). Two hundred years later a member of that clan was awarded lands near Aberdeen in northeast Scotland establishing the family branch known as the Irvines of Drum. In the early 17th century members from the Bonshaw and Drum branches settled in northern Ireland when the British established the Ulster Plantation. Our earliest known Irving ancestor appears in Canada mid-19th century; we believe he was born in Ireland. His widow and children moved to the USA, Boston area. Which is how their descendants came to live in the USA. Through DNA testing we believe our roots are with the Dumfries (or Bonshaw) branch; but at least know there is a Scottish connection. So, it is likely our ancestors moved from Scotland to Ireland (maybe during the settlement of the Ulster Plantation) and later our ancestor moved to Canada.

The Irving Surname

The name originally was *Erinvienne* (or *Erivine*, or *Erevienne*) which was the Clan name long before the concept of surnames was introduced. *Erinvienne* originates in the old Gaelic language combining the terms *Erin* (meaning west) and *viene* or *fiene* meaning – at that time – a brave, resolute, or worthy man. So, the surname Irving means a worthy or brave person from the west – or to be more politically correct today - just a person of / from the west.

Sometime before the 4th century AD. Gaelic clans established settlements in western Scotland which becomes the kingdom of Dál Riata. A race of people referred to as the Picts resided mostly in northern and eastern Scotland so the reference of *west* might refer to west of where the Picts resided. That could be today's western Scotland or across the sea to Ireland. *Erin* (meaning west) is how the land we call Ireland today was referred to. So another play on words would be *Erin-vienne* might refer to a (brave, resolute or worthy) man from Ireland.

As is always the case in history, the language used by scribes of the day was a likely source of some variations of words and names. This author assumes due to the lack of literacy in those times most history and names are passed by spoken word which morphed into the modern spellings of the name. No one knows when *Erinvienne* became pronounced or written as Irving / Irvine but it is not difficult to make this connection if you have ever heard the strong accented Scottish brogue spoken by a native. As literacy became more common and people write what they hear, it is no wonder there are so many ways to spell the surname.

Surnames became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation. In England this was sometimes known as the Poll Tax. The earliest surnames found in Scotland occur during the reign of David I, King of the Scots (1124-53). Surnames were beginning to be used on the Continent (Europe) about the time of the Norman Conquest (1066) and the Normans brought surname use with them. Surname use migrated north to Scotland with the Normans.

Robert, the chief of the border branch (at Bonshaw) of the Irving family took his surname *de Irwyn* using the French language tradition that was popular during those times¹. So, this Robert is claiming ownership of a place named Irwyn or he comes from a place named Irwyn. This is the first known use of a surname by a member of the Irving Clan. Early surnames often related to a person's occupation (*Smith*, for blacksmith), a place (either a specific town, estate or generic area – such as the town of Irvine in Strathclyde on the west coast of Scotland), or the father's name (son of John - *Johnson*). But in the regions of Scotland and Ireland where clans existed, members of clans would use the surname of their clan chief. So even peasant farmers with no blood relation to the clan chief would take a surname from the chief of their clan. This could be one possible cause for the preponderance of families named Irving – or one of the variations of that surname. Families adopting the surname Irvine or Irving (or any of the other spellings) could be based on the name of the Clan chief or a place name – the town in the Strathclyde (Irvine) or Irving Parish in the Annan-Dumfries area of south west Scotland.

About 230 variations of the name have appeared in public documents over the centuries². In modern times, those of the Clan in Scotland descending from Bonshaw usually write the name Irving; while those of Drum write Irvine. In Ireland Irvine is more prevalent than Irving, but it has been said that

1 The preposition 'de' in this use means possession, or possibly place of origin.

2 For a list of variations of the surname refer to <http://www.clanirwin.org/history.php>

clan members would change the spelling of their surname when moving between Scotland and Ireland.

The original (pre-fourth century) seat of the Clan is where the present town of Irvine exists in the historic district of Cunninghame (today North Ayrshire) on the coast of the Firth of Clyde. The town and river share the same name - *Irvine*. Historic maps show examples of how this name changed over time; in 1654 the town and river appear as Irrwin; in 1732 it is Irwin; and in 1832 they appear as Irvine. Another example of name variations is that of William of Bonshaw in 1699 in obtaining his Arms by the Court of Lyons is recorded as William Irvine, but he usually wrote his name as Irving; except in legal documents written in Latin where he is Irwing. Go figure – one individual uses three different spellings of his name.

So, it appears common practice to start the name with the letter “I” (rarely with an “E”); exchange the “v” with “w”; end the name with either “e” or “g”; or drop the last letter entirely. My father as did his father wrote Irving – as do I. One source indicates that individuals in, or from, Ireland write “Irvine” and pronounce the name so that it rhymes with “wine” or “vine”. Those in Scotland use the same spelling, but pronounce it as Er-vin.

Other possible origins of the surname have been put forward. For completeness these possibilities are included below; but it is my belief the origin is as stated before – derived from Erinvine and refers to either a place name or clan name.

Some believe that the name Irwin is derived from the Old-English eforwine (boar-friend). In 1297 and again in 1305 men named O'Hirwen, O'Hyrwin etc., were outlawed and about the same time an O'Herewen is found among the tenants of the manor of Dunkerrin, King's (now Offaly) County Ireland. The form O'Hervan occurred in a Fiant (document) as late as 1601.

Another possibility is Scottish in origin from a Celtic river name, with the component elements being "ir" or "yr" meaning *fresh* plus "afon", *water*. Thus the river named Irvine might derive its name from alternate Celtic words, instead of the clan name.

A third option is Irish and a developed form of the Gaelic O' hEireamhoin. This translates as the male descendant of Eireamhan, the latter being an ancient personal name of uncertain origin.

Most believe *Irving* is a surname originating as a place name. The place is either the area around the town of Irvine on the west coast of Scotland, or more likely the parish of Irving in southwest Scotland, or possibly the residence of the Clan chief named Irwyn; which was also within the parish of Irving.

Ancient Times

Sometime before 373 AD the people whose descendants would eventually use the surname Irving (or various spellings of that surname) established themselves on the west coast of what is now Scotland. It is believed these people originally migrated from the Iberian Peninsula (today's Spain and Portugal) settling in both eastern Ireland and western Scotland. It is not known if they first settled in what is now Ireland and moved from there to what is now Scotland or if they established settlements in both Ireland and Scotland about the same time.

Background

The Picts were a confederation of Celtic tribes living in what was later to become eastern and northern Scotland from before the Roman conquest of Britain until the 10th century, when they merged with the Gaels. They lived primarily to the north of the Forth and Clyde rivers, and it is believed they spoke the extinct Pictish language, thought to have been related to the Brythonic languages spoken by the Britons to the south. They are assumed to have been the descendants of the Caledonii and other tribes named by Roman historians and found on the world map of Ptolemy (A. D. 69 - 168). Pictland, also known as Pictavia, gradually merged with the Gaelic kingdom of **Dál Riata** to form the Kingdom of Alba (Scotland). By the 11th century the Pictish identity had been subsumed into the "Scots" amalgamation of peoples. The name the Picts called themselves is unknown. The Latin word *Picti* first occurs in A.D. 297 and is taken to mean "painted or tattooed people" (Latin *pingo* "to paint"; *pictus*, "painted"). But there is no corroboration available that implies that they tattooed or painted themselves other than the name (Picts) given to them by the Romans. Little is actually known about the Picts, but one interesting belief is that they were a *matrilinear* society – where bloodlines and inheritance are passed from one's mother, not father. Historians disagree about virtually everything concerning the Picts but most agree that they were fierce fighters and they left behind decorated standing stones all over today's northeastern Scotland.

Dál Riata was a Gaelic over-kingdom on the western coast of Scotland with some territory on the northern coasts of Ireland. In the late 6th and early 7th century it encompassed roughly what is now Argyll, Bute and Lochaber in Scotland and also County Antrim in Ireland. Dál Riata is commonly viewed as having been an Irish Gaelic colony in Scotland. The inhabitants of Dál Riata are often referred to as Scots, i.e., Latin *scotti*, a name for the inhabitants of Ireland; and refers to Gaelic-speakers, whether from Ireland or elsewhere. The Dál Riata region in Scotland coincides with where historians believe the Erievone (Irving) Clan established their initial settlements on the west coast of Scotland.

The Brigantes were a Celtic tribe who in pre-Roman times controlled the largest section of what would become Northern England, and a significant part of the Midlands. Their kingdom is sometimes called Brigantia, and it was centered in what was later known as Yorkshire. Ptolemy lists the Brigantes also as a tribe in Ireland. Some Irving researchers and historians suggest the Erievone Clan could be Brigantes.

The Romans conquered southern portions of the Island of Great Britain (they referred to this province as Britannia). This Roman province consisted of today's England and Wales. They invaded

Scotland but never completely conquered those northern regions. Roman occupation began in 43 AD and ended beginning about 410 AD. The Romans cemented their northern border with Hadrian's Wall, completed around 128 AD. In 142 AD, they pushed the frontier north to the Forth-Clyde line, constructing the Antonine Wall but shortly retreated back to Hadrian's Wall. The legacy of the Roman occupation of England is many fold – including introducing Christianity around the 4th century. The Roman empire was being attacked on other fronts and necessitated moving armies from Briton to defend other parts of the empire. In about 410 AD the Romans began withdrawing from Briton and by 450 were gone, never to return.

Additional information is provided in the Glossary.

Ancient Ancestors

People referred to as Gaels, or Goidels, resided in Ireland and western Scotland. These people spoke one of the Goidelic Celtic languages: Irish or Scottish Gaelic. *Gaelic* is a language not a race or tribe of people; and *Gaels* are people who spoke Gaelic. Translating the Clan name into our modern English written language presents its problems; so Erinviene, Eriviene, Ereviene, or other spellings are all valid. No-one can say for sure whether the family (Clan) were associated with the Brigantes or Dál Riata (if there is a difference).

The Ereviene Clan was established in that part of Albin called Cuninghame (now North Ayrshire County) during (if not before) the Roman occupation of Briton. They named that place and the river that runs past it after themselves (today those names are Irvine). They resided there until they were banished along with the rest of the Dalriadic, or Albin-Scots after the death of their king Eugenius at the hands of the Romans and allies made up of Britons and Picts about 373 AD. The Albin-Scots led by the surviving members of king Eugenius' family were banished and sailed to Scandia (Scandinavia). The Albin-Scots, under the leadership of Furgus (nephew of their slain king), including the Ereviene Clan, joined the northern nations in making incursions into Roman provinces, especially Hungary and Gaul. Some of the Erevienes remained in Hungary and descendants go by the name Erin today.

Meanwhile, back in Albin, the Picts and Scots that remained grew tiresome of the tyranny of the Romans and joined in recalling Furgus in hopes of regaining their lost liberties. He returned and was made King of the Scots under the name Furgus II in 404. The Erevienes and other clans returned with Furgus and had their ancient possessions restored. In addition to the lands on the Firth of Clyde they possessed lands north of the River Tay (in the Perth region)³ commonly called Strath Tay (valley of the Tay) in central Scotland. This region includes the town of Dunkeld; whose significance will be explained later.

So, as the Romans are leaving Briton the Ereviene Clan lands are restored in Scotland.

³ I have found no explanation as to how or when the Ereviene Clan got lands in the Tay valley which seems a bit far from the west coast and the Firth of Clyde.

Kingdom of Alba

The Romans called the land to the north of that which they controlled Caledonia. When the Romans abandoned Briton (about 410 AD) the two primary peoples residing in Caledonia were the Picts in Pictavia (or Pictland) and the Dalriadic Scots in Dál Riata. The Picts resided mostly north of the River Forth in eastern Scotland and the Diadiadic Scots on the west coast of Scotland. Eventually, by the 10th century, these peoples merged into one with the Diadiadic Scots being the dominant.

Background

Popular stories of unknown accuracy have Kenneth MacAlpin as king of the Dalriadic Scots and was victorious over the Picts in 841. At a meeting at Scone Kenneth MacAlpin, had the Pictish king and all his nobles murdered then claimed to be king over both Scots and Picts naming the lands he now ruled the *Kingdom of Alba* (Kingdom of Scotland)⁴ or in some references the *Kingdom of Scotia*, or just *Scotia*. However, most historians consider “Scotland” at that time to refer to the lands south of the Forth – Clyde line. While Scotia is the lands north of that east-west line. With virtually no contemporary written records or maps it is difficult to be specific as to correct names for these areas.

Other legends that are more believable tell that Kenneth was king of Dál Riata and son of a Diadiadic Scot father and his wife a Pictish mother who became king over the Scots and Picts; so the merging of the Scots and Picts was initiated via a marriage, not intrigue or hostilities.

Kenneth MacAlpin established the tradition that all Scottish monarchs would be crowned at Scone on the *Stone of Destiny*⁵. Kenneth was crowned in 843. Kenneth was the first of seventeen successive kings referred to as the *House of Alpin* ending with Malcolm II in 1034. The 200 or so years of the House of Alpin was spent merging the Picts and Dál Riata Scots societies and fending off Viking raids. The last of the House of Alpin, Malcolm II, had no sons so the throne went to his grandson (son of his daughter), Duncan, the first of what is referred to as the House of Dunkeld; discussed later.

Some texts list king Kenneth I as King of Alba, King of Scotia, and some even King of the Picts. There is little written history from Scotland itself for this period. Historians depend on texts from the Anglo-Saxon to the south and chronicles created in Ireland for history of Scotland for much of this period. Those chronicles do mention significant events which happened in Scotland.

Early Ereviene Clan

Up until the end of the first millennium little is known about the Ereviene Clan (and even Scotland for that matter) other than the Erevienes had land holdings around the present-day town of Irvine in the west and presumably in the Valley of the Tay, north of Perth.

The first known written history of the Irvings is *The Origins of the Irvines or Erinvines*, published in 1678 by Dr. Christopher Irvine MD which is extremely difficult to find but has been quoted often by subsequent published histories of the clan. Dr. Irvine was the first to research the family line which he

4 Historians sometimes apply *Kingdom of Alba* to the time period up to the death of Alexander III in 1285, the end of the House of Dunkeld.

5 The Stone of Destiny is an interesting side story to history. Information is available on the Internet which I invite the reader to seek out.

was able to take back to the mid-ninth century.

Starting about 848 AD Duncan was chief of the clan and became the hereditary abbot of the old Celtic Monastery in Dunkeld, which exists today as the Dunkeld Cathedral.

Here some controversy begins; some historians believe that the position of abbot is a mistake and should actually be Abthane⁶. Or Duncan held both titles, which is possible. At the time both positions were hereditary offices. So his heirs will obtain his titles. No one knows what circumstances caused Duncan to obtain the titles. Presumably his predecessor had no heirs and Duncan was appointed.

Whether the Erevienes, beginning with Duncan, were Abbots in Dunkeld is questionable, but they were Abthane of Dule (sometimes Dul, or Dull) an important position second only to the King. Some historians believe the title Abbot was incorrectly transcribed in early texts and was intended to be Abthane. Others historians believe he was the *Lay Abbot*, meaning he owned the lands of the monastery and as owner could direct the dealings of the monastery, or simply sit back and collect rents. But being an Abbot of a monastery in those times did not imply he could not marry and have children. How else would the position be a hereditary position?

Duncan and his son Duncan are killed in battle so it is reasonable to believe they were not religious Abbots. Lay Abbot (land owners) is more believable to me.

Recorded history of the Erevines seems to start in the mid-tenth century AD. It was in 965 AD that Duncan, who was the Earl and Governor of Strathclyde, and who was known as “the first of the Erevine,” was killed at Dancrub while leading an army against a strong rebel force of fellow countrymen. His eldest son, also Duncan, inherited all of his father’s titles, including Abbot of Dunkeld. This Duncan was killed at the Battle of Lancarty, about 990 AD. The second Duncan had three sons: Crinan, Grim and Duncan. Crinan, the eldest, inherited the titles, married the eldest daughter of king Macolm II, and becomes the progenitor of the House of Dunkeld; discussed later. Little is known about Grim, the second brother. But he is presumed to be Earl of Strathirwin, valley of the river Irwin (Irvine). The third brother, Duncan moves much of the clan, and members of neighboring clans, to the border area and becomes the progenitor of the Bonshaw branch; also discussed later.

The Ereviene Clan under the leadership of Duncan (younger brother of Crinan) and members of neighboring clans were induced by the king to move south to the border area to settle there and help defend the kingdom from incursions from south of the border (what will become England).

6 See glossary to learn what a Abthane was.

Anglo-Saxon to the Union of the Crowns

After 410, when the Roman occupation of Briton ended, up until 1066 the history of Briton is referred to as the Anglo-Saxon period. This name usually is not associated with Scotland, more so with England to the south. But some southeastern territories in today's Scotland were occupied by the Anglo-Saxon people. Beginning near the end of the Anglo-Saxon period the kings of Scotland were from the House of Dunkeld, members of the Ereviene (Irving) Clan. About the same time members of the Irving Clan settle on lands in southwest Scotland near the border with the lands populated by the Anglo Saxons.

The Norman Conquest (1066) begins the period termed the Anglo-Norman period. The Norman Duke, William *the conquerer*, subdued England, became William I king of England, and invaded Scotland as far north as Sterling. But William did not annex the Scottish territories, instead setting his northern English border where it was before and remains today. The House of Tudor ruled in England beginning in 1485 with Henry VII. Henry VIII's daughter, Queen Elizabeth ended the House of Tudor upon her death and then King James VI of Scotland (House of Stuart) became the monarch of both Scotland and England – the *Union of the Crowns* in 1603.

Background

Although our interest lies primarily in Scotland, we must understand what is going on to the south – in England too.

As the Roman occupation of Britain was coming to an end, Roman emperor Constantine III withdrew the remains of his Roman army from Briton, in reaction to the barbarian invasion of Europe. Due to not having the Roman soldiers for support, the Romano-British leaders were faced with an increasing security problem from sea borne raids, initially by Picts on the East coast then invaders from other lands. The expedient adopted by these leaders in southern Briton was to enlist the help of Anglo-Saxon mercenaries, to whom they ceded territory as payment. Anglo-Saxons were an amalgamation of Germanic tribes including primarily the Angles and the Saxons and to a lesser extent the Jutes (from the Jutland Peninsula). By the year 600 these tribes had solidified territories in eastern England extending north to Northumbria, whose northern border was at the River Forth in today's Scotland.

Between the eighth and eleventh centuries, raiders and colonists from Scandinavia, mainly Danish and Norwegian, plundered western Europe including the British Isles. Scotland was not immune, but the incursions in Scotland were limited to coastal areas (Caithness⁷) and some islands, (the Hebrides, the Isle of Man and the Orkney Islands). These raiders came to be known as the Vikings.

Nearly all of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms in England fell to the Vikings. Only the kingdom of Wessex in southwest England was able to survive. In 878 Alfred of Wessex put together an army which defeated the Viking army in battle at Edington. There followed a peace treaty which defined the boundaries of the area to be ruled by the Danes (which became known as the Danelaw) and those of Wessex. The Kingdom of Wessex controlled part of the midlands (kingdom of Mercia) and the whole of the south (apart from Cornwall, which was still held by the Briton tribe), while the Danes held the other part of Mercia, and the kingdoms of East Anglia and Northumbria. By 918 the kingdom of

⁷ Caithness is in extreme northeast Scotland. It was a County until 1975 then changed to a District.

Wessex had expanded and included all of present day England south of the Humber (roughly the southern half of England). By 927 Northumbria was conquered by Wessex resulting in all of England under control of one ruler; thus the kingdom of Wessex became the kingdom of England. The name "England" is derived from the Old English name *Engla* land, which means "land of the Angles". Hostilities continued but in 973 Edgar of Wessex was crowned King of all England, whose successor was his son Æthelred.

The Vikings were allowed to use ports in Normandy as bases for their raids on England. The result was that the courts of England and Normandy became increasingly hostile to each other. Eventually, Æthelred (King of England) sought a treaty with the Normans, and ended up marrying Emma, daughter of Richard I, Duke of Normandy in the Spring of 1002, which was seen as an attempt to break the link between the Viking raiders and Normandy and deprive the Vikings of ports close to England.

But we are not done. In 1016 England was conquered by Danish king Cnut (sometimes Canute) who established earldoms of Northumbria, East Anglia, Mercia, and later Wessex. Cnut placed his ally Godwin as the Earl of Wessex, whose successor was his son Harold. The Earl of Wessex was the most powerful earldom in all England. Æthelred was killed trying to regain the English crown from the Danes. His wife, Emma, and their son Edward were in her homeland, Normandy, many years for safety; eventually Æthelred's son Edward was successful in regaining his father's throne in 1043.

In the mean-time in Scotland, the Scots were able to push the southeastern border south to the River Tweed expelling the Anglo-Saxon Northumrians who had previously established their lands to the River Forth. Thus, since the year 1018 Scotland has maintained its geographic borders.

In January of 1066 Edward *the confessor* (King of England) died with no heir to the throne. Three claimants to the throne surfaced. Harold, earl of Wessex, the local favorite became king of England, although not for long. Another claimant to the throne of England was William, Duke of Normandy, through his relation to Emma and a promise from the deceased King Edward. William invaded England, King Harold was killed at the battle of Hastings and on Christmas day 1066 William was crowned King of England in London⁸. Thus beginning the Anglo-Norman era.

For context, this is the time period that surnames began to be used in England, a tradition brought by the Normans, and eventually moved north to Scotland.

House of Dunkeld

Returning to happenings back in Scotland - In the year 1004 Crinus, Abthane of Dull⁹ married Beatrix, eldest daughter and heiress of Malcolm II, King of the Scots. Their son, Duncan mounted the throne of Scotland as Duncan I in 1034. For 251 years (from 1034 to 1285) all the kings of Scotland (except one) were descendants of Crinus and Beatrix, thus Irvings¹⁰, if surnames had been used at that time. This succession of kings was known as the House of Dunkeld.

Duncan I added the lands of the Kingdoms of Strathclyde (valley of the Clyde) in western Scotland and Lothian (southeastern Scotland along the Firth of Forth) to his lands making him the first monarch of a

⁸ Refer to the document "Foster History" for additional information about the Norman Conquest.

⁹ The meaning of the ancient title: *Abthane of Dull* is questionable. But Crinus was the father of Duncan I.

¹⁰ Only IRVING history texts make the connection of Crinus being of the Ereviene clan. Other histories are silent on a clan connection; so claiming the House of Dunkeld are Irvings might be biased and could be incorrect.

united Scotland. He was able to pull that off due to the turmoil going on in England. Duncan reigned only seven years until 1040 when he was killed by Macbeth in battle; not murdered by Macbeth as inferred in Shakespeare's play *Macbeth*. Macbeth was Duncan's cousin (a grandson of Malcolm II). Macbeth took the throne. Duncan's son, Malcolm *the Canmore*, fled Scotland and was welcomed into the Court of the English king, Edward *the confessor*. Malcolm spent much of his exile in Northumbria with a cousin Siward, Earl of Northumbria. Siward leads an English army and invades Scotland (with Malcolm at his side) and defeats Macbeth. Malcolm took back the Scottish throne in 1058 as Malcolm III after avenging his father by killing Macbeth and Macbeth's son, Lulach, who briefly took the throne after the death of his father.

Malcolm III, and successors are sometimes referred to as being of the House of Canmore; due to the line of the House of Dunkeld was interrupted by Macbeth and his son. Most histories associate Malcolm, and his successors, with the House of Dunkeld, not Canmore.

One of Malcolm's daughters, Maud, would later marry a son of William *the conquerer*, Henry I, king of England.

Due to tradition of the time that a husband takes over control of a wife's property, the marriage between Maud and Henry I is used as one of the justifications that later English kings use to try to rule Scotland resulting in the hostilities on the border. More about that later.

Upon the death of Malcolm III, Duncan's younger son Donald replaces his brother on the throne of Scotland as Donald III; and the House of Dunkeld continues. One of the best known of the kings of the House of Dunkeld is David I, *the Saint*, who reigns from 1124 to 1153. He was the youngest son of Malcolm III and married Matilda, a great niece of King William I of England (*the Conqueror*). He founded monasteries at Melrose and Holyrood and founded royal burghs of Stirling, Perth, Dunfermline and Edinburgh. He introduced a feudal system and granted land to Anglo Norman incomers who soon anglicized the lowlands in Southern Scotland; one of these Norman families were the Bruces. Norman English became the dominant language of court while Gaelic was spoken in the Highlands and Norse in the far North and Isles.

The tenth since Duncan I and last of the House of Dunkeld to reign Scotland was Alexander III who reigned 1249 – 1286. Alexander's only daughter, Margaret, had married King Eric II of Norway and died in childbirth leaving a daughter also named Margaret. Back in Scotland, when Alexander died his only living heir¹¹ was his three year old granddaughter, Margaret, the *Maid of Norway*. She was sent for but died on the voyage from Norway. Thus ends the House of Dunkeld and the Irving clan as rulers over the Scots. Additional information about members of the House of Dunkeld is available on the Internet. There is a link in the bibliography; if you want to know more about this group of rulers.

Remember that surnames begin to be used in Scotland about the time of the reign of David I (1124 – 1153). You will be hard pressed to find any association that the house of Dunkeld relations used the surname Irving. But they were descended from Crinus, Abthane of Dull of the Eryvinus Clan which we believe to have morphed to the Irving clan once surnames became common. This is my belief until someone proves otherwise.

11 All three of Alexander III's children died before their father.

Irvings of Bonshaw

The Irving clan branch lead by Duncan, the younger brother of the same Crinus Eryvinus (Irving) mentioned above, along with other clans went to the border region to settle and defend Scotland from England. Some of the neighboring clans were Montgomery, Cunningham, Wallace, Boyd, Campbell and Maxwell. This move is presumably about 1018, but could be as early as the 980's. Initially the Irvings settled on the banks of the River Esk; Duncan became known as *Duncan of Eskdale*. Later the Irvings acquired lands between the River Esk and the Kirtle Water, and eventually to the banks of the Annan River. These rivers flow into the Solway Firth east of Dumfries. Illustration 1 shows a map of these Irving lands, although that map reflects the lands 600 years later. These clans built *Keeps* (Pele Towers) as defensible refuges, one of which is Bonshaw Tower. Later, these clans, including Irving, will be referred to as Border Clans who defended Scotland from, and made raids into, England.

About the year 1020 Duncan of Eskdale's eldest son, Eruni, married Beatrix, an heiress of the royal Coel Hen family¹² and settled at her ancestral home of Dumbretton but later built a new castle in Kirtledale a few miles from the present Bonshaw; naming that place Irwyn. This being one probable source of the surname selected by *Robert de Irwyn*. Irving lands are expanded with many homes and towers built with Bonshaw as the Clan seat.

At the end of the 11th century the parish system came into existence and these lands were named *parish of Irving* which it retained until the 16th century when that parish was split into the parishes of Annan and Kirkpartick-Fleming.

The Anglo-Saxons had established in Briton, to the south, kingdoms and sub-kingdoms; what we refer to as the feudal system was common throughout Europe and Briton. This is the system of Lords, Vassals, and fief. A Lord was a noble who owned land. He would grant possession of some of his land to a Vassal (who had to pledge support to the Lord). Fief usually refers to the revenue-producing land itself; but can refer to an office or right to exploit the property, such as hunting or fishing rights. The Vassal would charge rent to tenants who worked the land for subsistence and meager profit.

King David I introduced the Feudal system in Scotland. About 1124 King David I (of the House of Dunkeld) granted Annandale lands to the Norman family of *de Brus* (Bruce); so the Bruce family became the feudal lords over the lands of the Irving and neighboring clans. Thus the Irvings were no longer directly responsible to the king, but vassals under the Bruces. Apparently there was no animosity for the Irvings became friends and supporters of the Bruces, especially *Robert the Bruce* in his later fight against the English. But notice that surnames are in use now, de Brus and de Irwyn.

Wars of Scottish Independence

Upon the death of Alexander III – the last of the *House of Dunkeld* – in 1286 with no surviving heir to the throne of Scotland there is no obvious person to rule Scotland. There were 13 claimants to the throne. To prevent Civil War in Scotland the Scottish nobles asked Edward I king of England (known as Edward *Longshanks* and the *Hammer of the Scots*) to choose a ruler. Edward I saw his chance to absorb Scotland - and the intrigue began. Six years later in 1291 Edward's stooge John Balliol was put on the throne of Scotland. He lasted a short time, in 1296 he was removed, and confined to the Tower

¹² Coel Hen is believed to be the last of the Roman Duces (Dukes) carrying on as King of Northern Britannia (northern England and southern Scotland) when the Romans vacated and returned to Rome. Disputed by some.

of London by King Edward I who then declared himself king of Scotland. This was obviously unacceptable to the Scots and the first war of Scottish Independence began.

The Scots led by William Wallace (*Brave Heart*) defeated the English forces in the Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297 and Wallace was named the Guardian of Scotland. Edward launched another campaign against the Scots and defeated the Scottish forces under the command of William Wallace in the Battle of Falkirk one year later. William Wallace managed to escape but he was eventually captured by the English and was executed in 1305. However, Edward was not able to complete the subjugation of Scotland. The revolt was taken up by Robert the Bruce, son and heir of one of the original claimants to the throne back in 1286. Robert's claim to the throne was that he was the fourth great-grandson of King David I, of the House of Dunkeld. Robert had himself crowned King of Scotland in 1306 at Scone as Robert I; the first of the short lived House of Bruce. Robert was forced to go into hiding after being defeated by the English at Methven in 1306. Edward I died before he could launch another campaign in Scotland. His son and successor Edward II was not able to continue his father's policy and Robert the Bruce consolidated his position in Scotland, picking his battles; knowing when to fight and when not to.

The Irving and Bruce families became close friends and allies. Robert the Bruce was a guest at Bonshaw in 1298 and later fleeing from English forces Robert was concealed from the English pursuers by the Irvings of Bonshaw; this was 1306¹³. Robert was hidden in a cave in the cliff at the edge of the Kirtle water that exists today and is named Bruce's Cave. On this occasion a son of Irwyn of Bonshaw, William de Irwyn, left with Robert the Bruce to act as Armour bearer and secretary. William was later, after Scotland's independence was assured, rewarded in 1323 with a grant of a large part of the Royal Forest of Drum and the castle (tower) of Drum. From this William de Irwyn, first of Drum, has descended the Irvine families of Drum, Orkney, Angus, and others in northern Scotland, as well as overseas. American author Washington Irving, for whom the city of Irving, Texas is named, descends from the Orkney Islands family, thus descends from the Drum branch.

The beginning of the end of the war was the battle of Bannockburn in 1314, a Scottish victory. But it was not until 1328 when Edward II of England finally signed a treaty and recognized Scotland's independence. Robert the Bruce died the next year. Robert's son, the five year old David took his father's place on the throne as David II; along with his seven year old wife *Joan of the Tower*, daughter of Edward II of England (one of the conditions of the treaty ending the First War of Scottish Independence). With a weak monarch in Scotland, England thought they had another opportunity and the Second War of Scottish Independence (1332 – 1357) began. More intrigue with the English trying to control the Scottish throne took place. But the result of this second war is Scotland retaining its status as an independent nation. The story of David II and Joan is interesting but I will leave it to the reader to seek the details; for it is not germane to the purpose of this paper. The short lived House of Bruce was succeeded by the House of Stewart in Scotland.

Union of the Crowns

In England the House of Tudor ruled from 1485 until 1603. The first of that house was Henry Tudor (Henry VII) and it ended with Elizabeth I, daughter of Henry VIII. This period includes the split from

¹³ 1306 is the same year that Robert the Bruce was crowned King of Scotland at Scone after which he went into hiding. It is not known if the incident of Bruce's Cave was before or after he was crowned.

the Roman Catholic church, the Spanish Armada, and enough intrigue to fill many books.

Henry Tudor had three children: Henry Tudor, Mary Tudor, and Margaret Tudor. Henry VIII's attempts to produce a male heir, to continue the Tudor line are well known. Margaret Tudor married James IV of Scotland (of the House of Stewart) and bore James V. James V marries Mary of Guise and they have a daughter Mary who becomes Mary Queen of Scots. This Mary's son becomes James VI of Scotland.

Meanwhile, Henry VIII's three children (from different wives) each take the throne of England in succession, first the young Edward VI, then daughters Mary I followed by Elizabeth I. Upon the death of the unmarried and childless Elizabeth I (Queen of England), James VI of Scotland is asked and accepts the throne of England in addition to being the Scottish monarch. There was no objection in England and James was welcomed to London where he was crowned James I of England.

It is somewhat ironic that all the attempts of previous kings of England to absorb Scotland through intrigue and bloody warfare, that the king of the Scots peacefully enters London to be crowned king of England. This *Union of the Crowns* means that one individual is monarch of two independent nations. It is not until a hundred years latter (1707) that the *Acts of Union* passed by the Scottish and English Parliaments that England and Scotland joined to become the Kingdom of Great Briton, or the United Kingdom. Ireland remained a separate kingdom, subject to British rule until 1787.

King James I of England set out to quiet hostilities on the border, reward his subjects in Scotland with lands in the new Ulster Plantation, some of his subjects migrate to the new plantations in America, and attempts to smooth the religious differences he commissions the King James Bible.

Border Clan

The Irving Clan is sometimes referred to as a *Border Clan*. This signifies our ancestors were situated on the border between England and Scotland and acted as the first line of defense for Scotland from incursions from the south. With the crowns of Scotland and England united in 1603 under King James (I of England and VI of Scotland) bringing peace, of a sort, to the border region.

Background

England and Scotland were frequently at war during the late Middle Ages. During these wars, the livelihood of the people on the borders was devastated by the contending armies. Even when the countries were not at war, tension remained high, and royal authority in one or the other kingdom was often weak. The uncertainty of existence meant that communities or peoples kindred to each other would seek security through their own strength and cunning, and improve their livelihoods at their nominal enemies' expense. Loyalty to a feeble or distant monarch and reliance on the effectiveness of the law usually made people a target for depredations rather than conferring any security.

Much of the border region is mountainous or open moorland, unsuitable for arable farming but good for grazing. Livestock was easily rustled and driven back to raiders' territory by mounted *reivers* who knew the country well. The raiders also often removed "insight", easily portable household goods or valuables, and even took prisoners for ransom. "Reive" is an early English word meaning "to rob".

Border Reivers were raiders along the Anglo–Scottish border predominantly from the late 13th century to the end of the 16th century. Their ranks consisted of both Scottish and English families, and they raided the entire border country without regard to their victims' nationality.

The attitudes of the English and Scottish governments towards the border clans alternated between indulgence or even encouragement, as these fierce families served as the first line of defense against invasion from the other side of the border, and draconian and indiscriminate punishment when their lawlessness became intolerable to the authorities.

Both countries divided their border territories into three sections identified as the East, Middle, and West Marches. The Irving border clan resided in the Scottish Western Marches.

The term *Marches* refers to the border regions on both sides of the border between Scotland and England. From the Norman conquest of England until the Union of the Crowns, border clashes were common and the monarchs of both countries relied on the Earls of March and Lord Warden of the Marches to defend and control the frontier region. These positions and titles were Royal appointments.

The Irvings in Scotland and our other ancestors - Forsters in England were reivers on opposing sides but of different marches so it is unlikely they fought each other. Sir John Forster was the English Warden of the Middle Marches. Refer to the companion document *Foster History* which includes a map of the border region and identifies where those border clans were prominent (including Irvings).

Irving Border Clan

During the 16th century, the Irvings of Bonshaw played a leading part in the inter-clan and Border warfare, as well as playing an influential part in national politics during the chieftain-ship of Edward Irving of Bonshaw (1555-1605); while various lesser members of the clan directed their efforts to raiding across the Border. During this century a feud existed between the Johnstons, Irvings and their supporters on the one side, and the Maxwells and their supporters on the other. Various reasons have been given for this feud, but none are convincing¹⁴. It is interesting to note that the Irvings' power at this time was considered at least equal to that of the Johnstons and far greater than is often credited to them. However, apart from their audacity, military prowess and keen judgment, a survey of their properties shows them to have become one of the biggest land-owning clans in the Western Marches. In King James VI reign the Irving Clan territory comprised about 46,500 acres.

The map in *Illustration 1* shows the lands held by the Irvings of Bonshaw at the time the thrones of Scotland and England were united under King James (1603). The neighboring Clans are also identified on this map. In the upper-right of the map in *Illustration 1* the place name Irvine refers to Irvine House (or castle), not the town of Irvine; that town is on the west coast – south west of Glasgow. The house was about two and a half miles south of the town of Langholm.

The map shown in *Illustration 2* is a close up of the area labeled Irvine in *Illustration 1* and shows the Irvine House and surrounding features with Irvine names where the Tarras Water joins the River Esk. This is the area where the Irving clan first settled after moving south to the border region in about 1018. This area is labeled on the map in *Illustration 11* as location “D”.

I refrain from describing the hostilities of this period which included wars between the English and Scottish, feuds between the clans within Scotland, and even Civil War in Scotland because it contributes little to the purpose of this paper; if you desire to know more I suggest John Beaufin Irving's book which addresses the Bonshaw family's involvement in these events on the border.

¹⁴ The feud might be based in part on the story of Fair Helen of the ballad *Fair Helen of Kirkconnel*.

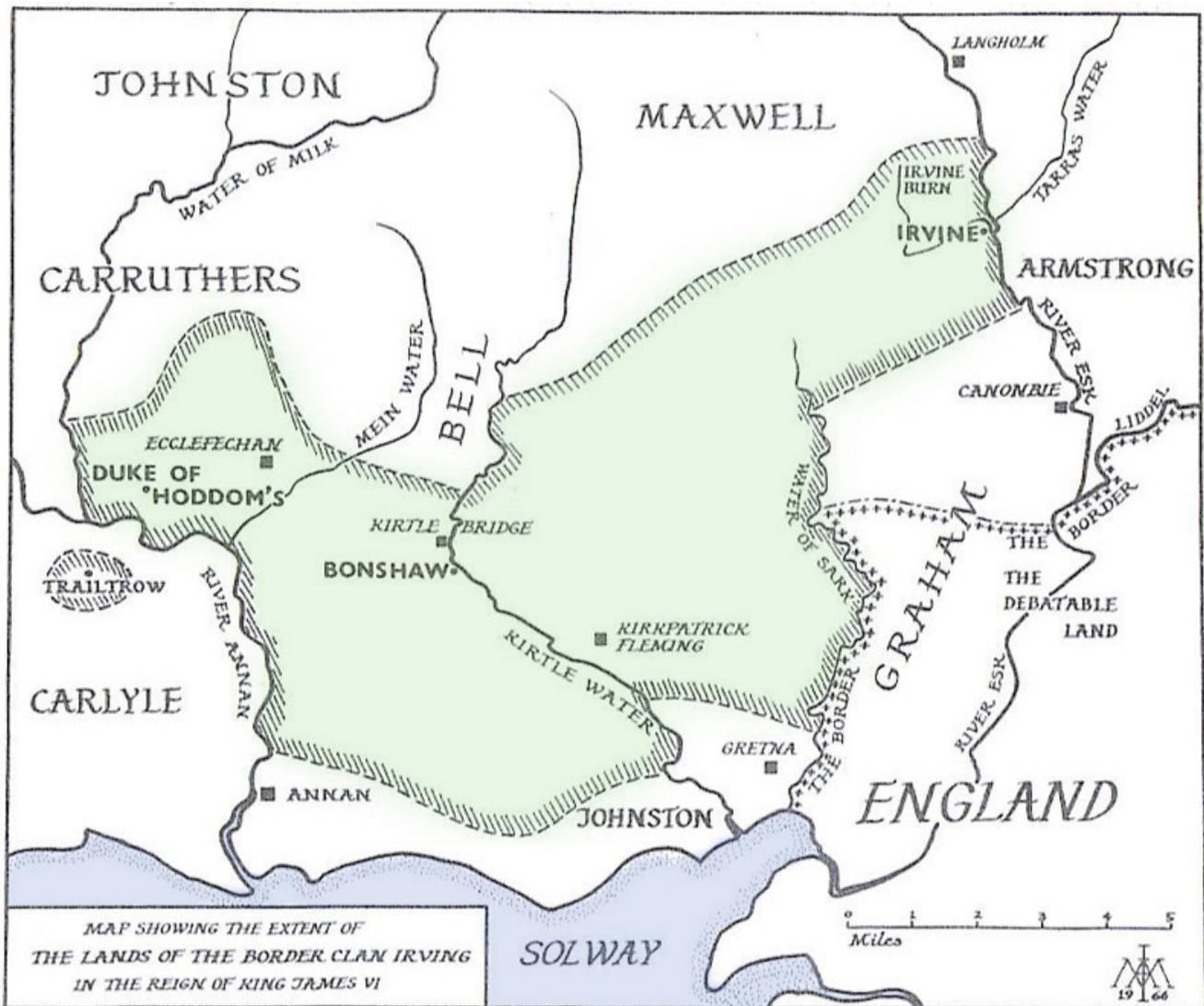
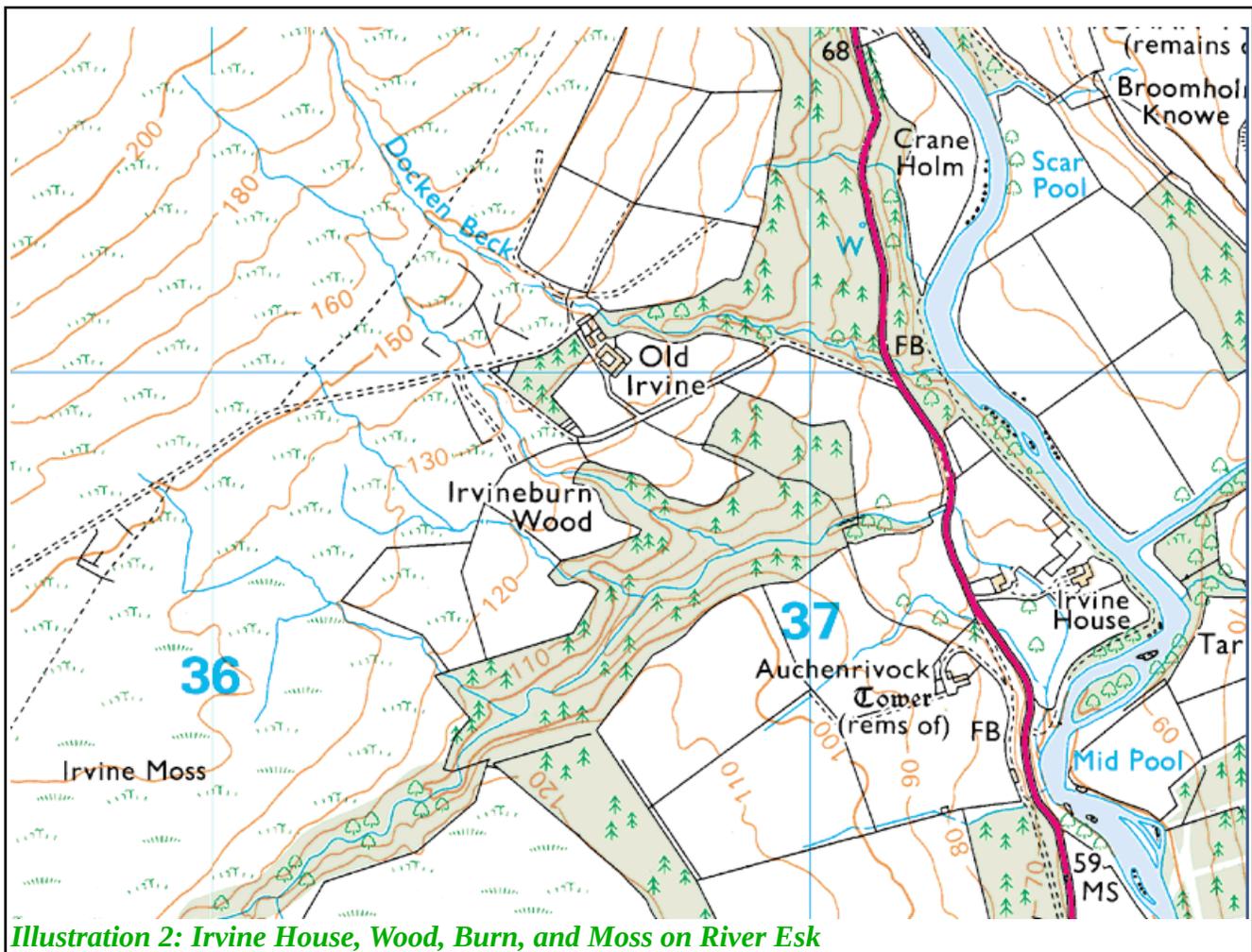


Illustration 1: Lands of the Border Clan Irving about 1603



Burn, as in *Irvineburn*, is a name for watercourses from large streams to small rivers. Irvineburn is a small stream that flows into the River Esk. On old maps there was little distinction between a Moor, Muir, and Moss. Irvine House and the whole area was laid to waste by the English after the Scottish defeat at the Battle of Flodden field (1513) and the English pressed into Scotland inflicting revenge.

Some of the Irving strongholds – Towers and Homes – between the River Annan and the Kirtle Water are shown on *Illustration 3*. Towns are named in all-uppercasse letters on that map. An old photograph of Bonshaw Tower is provided in *Illustration 8*, while photographs of a few of the other Irving towers are available at: <http://www.clanirving.com/irving-border-towers.asp>.



Illustration 3: Towers, Peels, and Homes of the Irvings

Fair Helen of Kirkconnel Lea

There is an old Scottish ballad known as *Fair Helen of Kirkconnel Lea*. The Ballad is based on fact, but has probably been romanticized with artistic license over the years.

The story goes like this - Helen Irving was the daughter of William Irving who was son of the Laird of Bonshaw. Helen lived in the sixteenth century and is recognized by tradition as *Fair Helen of Kirkconnell*. Helen had two suitors Robert Bell of Blacket House (preferred by her family as a proper match) and Adam Fleming who she truly loved. Helen and Adam would steel away to be alone on the

banks of the Kirtle Water. On one occasion the shunned Robert Bell intended to kill his rival but his shot missed and resulted in killing Helen instead. Helen perceived the desperate lover on the opposite bank, and to save her favorite, interposed; and, receiving the wound intended for her beloved; she fell and expired in his arms. Adam enraged, instantly revenged her death killing Robert with his sword and mutilated Robert's body. Fearing being hanged for the murder of Robert he fled to Spain. Years later, on his return, he visited the grave of his unfortunate mistress, stretched himself on it, and died on the spot. When his body was found Helen's family had Adam interred by her side.

In the burial ground on the western edge of the village of Eaglesfield are the graves of Helen Irving and her love Adam Fleming. Lyrics of the ballad were published by Walter Scott in his 'Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border'. Others have altered the lyrics over time; but here are the lyrics published by Scott in 1802.

I wish I were where Helen lies!
Night and day on me she cries;
O that I were where Helen lies,
On fair Kirconnell Lee!

O Helen fair, beyond compare!
I'll make a garland of thy hair,
Shall bind my heart for evermair,
Until the day I die.

Curst be the heart, that thought the thought,
And curst the hand, that fired the shot,
When in my arms burd Helen dropt,
And died to succour me!

O that I were where Helen lies!
Night and day on me she cries;
Out of my bed she bids me rise,
Says, "haste, and come to me!"

O think na ye my heart was sair,
When my love dropt down and spak nae mair!
There did she swoon wi' meikle care,
On fair Kirconnell Lee.

O Helen fair! O Helen chaste!
If I were with thee I were blest,
Where thou lies low, and takes thy rest,
On fair Kirconnell Lee.

As I went down the water side,
None but my foe to be my guide.
None but my foe to be my guide,
On fair Kirconnell Lee.

I wish my grave were growing green,
A winding sheet drawn ower my een,
And I in Helen's arms lying,
On fair Kirconnell Lee.

I lighted down, my sword did draw,
I hacked him in pieces sma,
I hacked him in pieces sma,
For her sake that died for me.

I wish I were where Helen lies!
Night and day on me she cries;
And I am weary of the skies,
For her sake that died for me.

Religion in the United Kingdom

Before continuing, I would be remiss if we did not touch on the subject of religion, for it plays an important part in the story of peoples movement, loyalties and the cause of much hostility. This section is background material included for context; so skip it if you want.

Christianity was introduced in Briton by the Romans about the 4th Century. After the Romans left Briton, Pope Gregory I, in 597, sent Saint Augustine to evangelize the Angles (Anglo-Saxons). He established his Church in Canterbury, kingdom of Kent; becoming the first Archbishop of Canterbury. There were also Celtic Christians throughout Briton loyal to the Pope in Rome. Christian meant Roman Catholic; at least in western Europe.

About a thousand years later, two things happened in Germany; first in 1440 the printing press was invented, then in 1517 a priest and professor of theology, Martin Luther, questioned the practices of the Roman Church writing his *95 Thesis* (listing what is wrong with the Church). What began as an attempt to change the ways of the Church resulted in Luther breaking from the Church and forming the Lutheran movement, which began the Protestant Reformation. He translated the Bible into German from Latin so that any literate citizen could read the scriptures; and thanks to the printing press literacy was on the rise. In 1530 a French theologian, John Calvin, expands Luther's ideas and develops a Christian theology named Calvinism. A Scottish Catholic priest, John Knox, got entangled in politics at home and ends up in Geneva, Switzerland where he meets John Calvin who had been exiled from France. John Knox becomes the father of the Presbyterian church. He returns to Scotland to begin transforming the Church of Scotland to Presbyterian beliefs. These beliefs include the basic idea each congregation manages themselves; no local Bishop or Pope in Rome should dictate liturgy; the scriptures in the Bible are sufficient. Calvin and Knox basically believed each congregation should lead itself; Bishops and Popes were not necessary to tell members how to worship.

Up until 1534 the people of England were Catholic, loyal to the Pope in Rome; but the Protestant Reformation had begun to take roots in England. Henry VIII wanted an annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, the Pope refused so Henry resorted to breaking with the Church in Rome and declaring himself head of the Church of England.

Henry maintained many Catholic traditions but Protestant inroads were made into the Church of England. After Henry's death in 1547 his son Edward VI allowed more Protestant inroads. But Edward died and his sister, Mary took the reigns of State in 1553. She was Catholic, loyal to the Pope and ended the independent Church in England. Queen Mary became known as Bloody Mary due to her unrelenting persecution of leaders and common folk who retained their Protestant beliefs; many were burned at the stake.

About this time in Scotland the Roman Catholics made a concerted effort to return the nation to Catholicism. The response was the covenant of 1560 named the Confession of Faith and later, in 1581, a second covenant called the King's Confession or National Covenant. This document denounced the Pope and the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church. It was adopted by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and signed by King James VI. The Scottish Presbyterian movement signers of all classes throughout Scotland were referred to as Covenanters (signers of the covenant).

Back in England, Queen Mary died childless and was replaced in 1558 by her half sister, Queen Elizabeth. Her solution was to reestablish the Church of England as a Protestant State religion with the

Monarch at the head of the church, but with Catholic-like organization (Bishops, etc.) and many Catholic traditions in the services. A group forms within the Church of England who believe the new Church is too Catholic and wants a more pure form of worship; they become known as Puritans. The Puritan movement attempted to change the Church from within; but were blocked, and resorted to moving congregations to first Holland and eventually a new colony in America.

Elizabeth dies and the 1603 Union of the Crowns places James I (James VI of Scotland) on the throne of England who attempts to unite the Church of Scotland with the Church of England, but the Anglican church is too Catholic for the Scottish Presbyterians and visa versa. He commissions a translation of the Bible (King James version).

The failure of the Puritan movement to change the Church of England from within resulted in the Separatists movement who wanted to form a separate church from the Church of England. Separatists would eventually be called Congregationalists; and were not all that different from the Presbyterians in Scotland. Another separatists movement was the Baptist which began as early as 1609 by an English separatist, John Smyth, in Amsterdam. This movement's principal difference is they believe baptism should not be done on infants but only on professing believers – someone who has learned and truly wants to be baptized, thus adults.

King James' son, Charles I, tried to unite the three nations (England, Scotland and Ireland) first by uniting the forms of worship, a naive notion. The Covenanters in Scotland raised an army and the rattling of swords (but few engagements) between this army and the English referred to as the *Bishops Wars* of 1639 - 40 resulted in Edward of England backing off. But it set the stage for what became known as the *Wars of Three Kingdoms*; a succession of revolts and even Civil Wars. It seems that a decision on how citizens would be allowed to worship could not be decided over a conference table, only on the battle field.

In 1641 the Irish Rebellion broke out; discussed later. Not surprisingly the Catholics in Ireland objected to the Ulster Plantation being populated with Protestants, mostly Presbyterians from Scotland. The Covenanter army went to Ireland to protect the Scottish Presbyterians in Ulster province.

The next year Civil War broke out in England and spilled over into Scotland and even Ireland attempting to answer the Church question, Charles I lost his head, and Oliver Cromwell took the reigns as Protectorate of England. Cromwell was of the separatist movement.

At the end of the first Civil War in England the Puritan movement becomes more powerful. Eventually with the *Restoration*, that being the return of the Monarchy (Charles II) and Parliament restoring the Church of England based mostly on the Elizabethan model.

During the English Civil Wars a new movement was founded by George Fox (about 1647) that being the Religious Society of Friends (the Quakers). They insisted that God could speak to average people, through his risen son, without the need to heed churchmen or pay tithe. Beginning in the North (Durham) they spread south and William Penn's new colony in Pennsylvania was founded to provide a safe place for the Quakers.

These troubled times see various acts passed by Parliament in reaction to Covenanters, Quakers, and Separatists which today seem ludicrous but in the end result with tolerance and the realization that one form of worship was not right for all people. Some of these acts were:

- Conventicle Act of 1664 – no religious meeting of more than five people outside the Church of

England

- Quaker Act, 1662 – required people to swear an oath of allegiance to the king, Quakers refused
- Five Mile Act – sought to prevent nonconformists from living in incorporated towns, within five miles of a Church of England parish church

Under James II of England (son of Charles I and Catholic) persecution practically ceased. James issued a *Declaration of Indulgence* in 1687 and 1688, and it was widely held that William Penn had been its author. In 1689 the *Toleration Act* was passed. It allowed for freedom of conscience and prevented persecution by making it illegal to disturb anybody else from worship. So although the Church of England is the State Church, the citizens were permitted to worship as they wished in England as already permitted in Scotland.

The Methodists began later as a club for Oxford students called the Holy Club who met between 1729 and 1735; formed by John Wesley and his brother Charles. Members were accustomed to receiving communion every week, fasting regularly, and abstaining from most forms of amusement and luxury. They also frequently visited the sick and the poor, as well as prisoners. The movement focused on Bible study and a *methodical* approach to scriptures and Christian living (thus the name). This movement was another unsuccessful attempt to change the Anglican Church of England from within that resulted in the formation of a new sect. Methodism spread throughout the UK and preachers immigrated to America and from there Canada.

There was one more conflict that loosely had a religion-related cause; that being the Jacobite rebellion. James II, of England mentioned above, was pro-French, pro-Catholic and produced a Catholic heir; all of which the political and religious elite were against. The Protestant, Dutch Prince William of Orange (James' son-in-law) ousted James in 1688 who fled to Ireland then to exile in France. William routed James in the Battle of Boyne in Ireland to which the Protestants in Ireland recognize today with their symbolic color orange. William ruled jointly with his wife Mary Stuart and this period of their reign is referred to as that of William and Mary. Mary died in 1694 and William in 1702. Next on the throne was Anne, the Protestant daughter of the ousted James II Stuart. Anne died without producing heirs (thus ending the House of Stuart); so her second cousin George I of the House of Hanover, (from the Kingdom of Hanover and Duchy of Brunswick in northern Germany) who was a descendant of the Stuarts through his maternal grandmother, Elizabeth, daughter of James I of England became King in 1714. Although over fifty Roman Catholics bore closer blood relationships to Anne, the Act of Settlement (1701) prohibited Catholics from inheriting the British throne. George was Anne's closest living Protestant relative. In reaction, the Jacobite movement (mostly in Scotland and Ireland) attempted to depose George (German Georgie) and replace him with Anne's Catholic half-brother, James Francis Edward Stuart, but their attempts failed. Jacobite was more a political movement than a religious one. The prime motive was to restore the House of Stuart, which just happened to be Catholic. But many supporters (Catholic kings in Europe and the Pope) did so to return Catholics to power in the UK. The significant hostilities of this uprising was the 1745 insurrection led by the grandson of James II, Charles (Bonnie Prince Charlie) which failed and effectively ended the Jacobite cause.

Irvings in Ireland

There were undoubtedly members of the early Ereviene Clan living in Ireland who did not go to Scotland but nothing is known of them. There were two periods when significant numbers of Scots moved to Ireland: at the founding of the Ulster Plantation beginning in 1609 and later just before 1700 due to a great famine along the English-Scottish border. We have knowledge of some Scottish Irvings (any spelling) taking up lands in the Ulster Plantation. These are the landowners awarded large tracts of land. Any tenants they brought with them are mostly lost to history and undoubtedly include some with the Irving surname. The proximity of Ireland to Scotland (as close as 12 miles) implies our Irving ancestors could have moved from one to the other anytime.

Background

The Nine Years War (or Tyrone's Rebellion) of 1594-1603 ended with the English taking control of the province of Ulster in northern Ireland. King James I (James VI of Scotland) was now on the throne of England. Previous plantation attempts in Ireland had been met with only marginal success. English plantations in Ireland had the intended purpose to populate Ireland with subjects loyal to the English crown who would socialize with the locals and convert their ways into being faithful to England. Ulster was colonized in an attempt to prevent further rebellion, as this had been the region most resistant to English control during the preceding century.

The Plantation of Ulster idea was presented to James I as a joint "British", or English and Scottish, venture to 'pacify' and 'civilize' Ulster. Therefore, at least half the settlers would be Scots. James had been King of Scotland before he was made king of England and needed to reward his subjects in Scotland with land in Ulster to assure them they were not being neglected now that James had moved his court to London. In addition, long-standing contact and settlement between Ulster and the west of Scotland meant that Scottish participation was a practical necessity.

The new landowners were explicitly banned from taking Irish tenants and had to import workers from England and Scotland. The remaining Irish landowners were to be granted one quarter of the land in Ulster. The native Irish population was intended to be relocated to live near garrisons and Protestant churches. Moreover, the British planters were barred from selling their lands to any Irishman and were required to build defenses against any possible rebellion or invasion. The settlers were also required to maintain arms and attend an annual military 'muster'. The settlement was to be completed within three years. In this way, it was hoped that a defensible new community composed of loyal British subjects would be created.

Another major influence on this plantation was the negotiation among various interest groups (financiers) on the British side. The principal landowners were to be *Undertakers*, wealthy men from England and Scotland who undertook to import tenants from their own estates. They were granted around 3000 acres each, on condition that they settle a minimum of 48 adult males (including at least 20 families), who had to be English-speaking and Protestant¹⁵. The term "British tenants" was applied to the colonists. The Scottish colonists were mostly Presbyterian and the English mostly Anglicans (Episcopal).

15 Could this be how our Irving ancestors came to be in Ireland – as Scottish tenants on the Ulster Plantation?

The plantation was a mixed success from the point of view of the settlers. About the time the Plantation of Ulster was planned, the Virginia Plantation at Jamestown in 1607 started. Some of the London guilds planning to fund the Plantation of Ulster switched and backed the London Virginia Company instead. Many "British" Protestant settlers went to Virginia or New England in America rather than to Ulster.

Most of the Scottish planters in Ulster came from southwest Scotland, but many also came from the unstable regions along the border with England. The plan was that moving Borderers to Ireland (particularly to County Fermanagh) would both solve the Border problem at home and populate Ulster with men who could fight if needed. This was of particular concern to James VI of Scotland when he became King of England, since he knew Scottish instability could jeopardize his chances of ruling both kingdoms effectively. Another wave of Scottish immigration to Ulster took place in the 1690s, when tens of thousands of Scots fled a famine (1696–1698) in the border region of Scotland. Most Irvine, Irving, Irwin, etc. families in Ireland came from the Dumfries area, but some from the Aberdeen area.

In the 1630's king Charles I of England forced the prayer book of the Church of England on the Church of Ireland. Many Scots left to return home rather than convert from Presbyterian. In 1641 the great Irish Rebellion broke out with County Fermanagh suffering the most; many British Protestants were murdered. At the outbreak of the 1641 rebellion there were about 40,000 Scots in Ulster. Many fled back to Scotland and some moved to America.

Starting in 1642 the English Civil Wars (English Revolution or Great Rebellion) began and lasted until 1660 which affected the whole of Britain. There were actually multiple wars during this period that were on again - off again. King Charles I, son of King James I (VI of Scotland) hoped to fulfill the wish of his father to create a new kingdom that united England, Scotland, and Ireland. Prior to these wars English Parliament had little power acting as an advisory committee when the Crown desired to increase taxes. Only Parliament could collect taxes for the Crown. Just after ascending the throne Charles I married the Catholic princess of France Henrietta which displeased Protestant England. Charles I was tried for treason and beheaded in 1649. Oliver Cromwell ruled for five years as the Lord Protectorate – England had no monarch. Known as the *Restoration*, in 1661 Charles II took the throne. Although the monarchy was restored, it was only with the consent of Parliament referred to as a Parliamentary Monarchy. This form of government most likely saved England from the revolutions that took place later in Europe (such as the French Revolution). The United Kingdom finally came into being in 1707.

Place Names and Land Divisions in Ireland

To research what few records exist in Ireland you need to understand place names and land divisions.

For what few vital records exist before the twentieth century in Ireland one is also confounded with all the changes to how the land was divided up into Provinces, Counties, Baronies, Civil Parishes, Religious Parishes, Poor Law Unions, and Townlands. I recommend searching the Internet for authoritative descriptions of the various divisions in Ireland. What follows is an overview to this subject which should help.

There were originally five kingdoms in Ireland, after the arrival in Ireland of the Normans (latter part of the 12th century) two of those kingdoms merged and for many years Ireland had four regions called **Provinces**. The four provinces were: Leinster, Munster, Connacht, and Ulster. These Provinces are

historical; there is no administrative authority allocated to them today. These districts could be equated to regions of the United States today; such as New England or the Midwest.

By the early 17th century all of Ireland had been divided into 32 **Counties** that have remained mostly as they were then. The older term “*shire*” is equivalent to county. The post-Norman allocation of counties in Ireland match the authority of local county government in England.

Like in England, there were **Baronies** in Ireland. These 331 divisions¹⁶ varied in size and are usually considered subdivisions of a county. But as the borders of counties were changed some Baronies straddled more than one county. The land of a Barony could be disjointed – not contiguous – and consist of parts of multiple counties. Baronies still exist, but serve no administrative function.

A subdivision of a County is the **Civil Parish** which usually consists of a number of towns, or *Townlands*. Originally the civil parish coincided with the Church of Ireland parish. In 1869 the Church of Ireland was disassociated with the Irish government, but the civil parish (local government) remains. A Church of Ireland (CoI, or C. I.) parish may coincide with the civil parish today, but might not. A Roman Catholic diocese often covers multiple Counties and a Catholic parish is unrelated to civil parishes.

Townlands can be as small as a few acres but are usually larger. It is the equivalent of our Towns. Someone living outside a townland, out in the country such as a farmer, would claim the location of their residence as the nearest Post (having a post office) or Market townland (where they sold their goods, shop, or get their mail).

We do not know when our Irving ancestor left Ireland¹⁷ for Canada; supposedly in the 1820 – 1830's, but presume that the divisions in place when he did would be the County, Civil Parish, and Townland. Those are the divisions we need to identify to locate records, if they exist. But Baronies still exist, so although less likely, don't forget those as possible place names.

In 1838 the Poor Law Act established districts named Poor Law Unions, or just **Unions** intended to provide a place of residence and work for the poor. Market and Post townlands (considered population centers) were selected as the center of each union. Land owners were taxed to provide revenue and *Work Houses* were constructed to house and provide work for the poor of the district. Work usually consisted of unskilled physical tasks. Workhouses included living quarters, an infirmary, wash houses, schools for children, work spaces and other service areas as needed. Life in a workhouse was intentionally harsh to discourage only but the destitute from applying; there were few if any comforts.

The poor law Union divisions were used as the basis of civil registration and when social medicine came into existence (post World War I) each union got a dispensary with an assigned doctor, maybe a small hospital. The doctor was the registrar of births and deaths. Later administration positions were established to relieve the doctor of his registrar duties. Workhouses were abolished in 1930.

The Irish Free State was established in 1922, which separated Ireland from the United Kingdom. Six counties in the north with predominantly Protestant citizens voted to remain with the United Kingdom.

¹⁶ Baronies were established in Ireland by the Normans and later altered by the Tudors. Refer to Wikipedia articles on the Internet for additional information including a list of baronies in Ireland.

¹⁷ We believe William Irving was living in New Brunswick before 1835, when his children, Sara Jane and James were born to first wife Jane. But the possibility exists they were born in Ireland.

These six counties form today's *Northern Ireland* and were part of the Ulster Plantation. The six counties of Northern Ireland are: Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry (Derry), and Tyrone. The counties of Cavan, Donegal, and Monaghan are the other Ulster counties who voted to join with the Irish Free State. In 1937 voters in the 26 counties of the Irish Free State elected to replace the 1922 constitution and form the present sovereign state of Ireland.

Next we will identify known families using one of the variations of the Irving surname who took up residence on the island of Ireland. The significance is that we believe our original immigrant to North America came from Ireland, thus his ancestors were in Ireland, somewhere. Our ancestor could be connected to one of these families – maybe not.

Irwin of County Roscommon

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth, well before the Ulster Plantation, two brothers said to be of the family of Drum moved (probably between 1560 and 1570) to Ireland settling near Oran, county Roscommon. Christopher established a long line of descendants but of his brother Louis little is known. I think it is safe to assume this family were of the Catholic faith.

This Christopher James Irwin of Newtown, Co. Roscommon had a son, also Christopher, who married Elizabeth Eveers, widow of Blakeney of Blakeney castle in Co. Galway. They had a son, also Christopher, born about 1600 who married a Miss O'Neill from the north of Ireland. They had a son Alexander born about 1625 who married first Lady Jean Macguire daughter of the Earl of Enniskillen and had a son named Christopher born about 1655 who settled in Oran. Alexander married secondly Sara Ormsby by whom he had nine daughters. Alexander's son Christopher owned Oran and seven other townlands or estates.

A younger brother of Alexander named John (of Ballinderry, near Four Mile House, Roscommon) married Susanna Jones of Stone Park and had a son, Arthur (of Fearnhall); Arthur was born about 1692. Arthur's descendants spread to counties Sligo and Galway while some remained in Roscommon.

Irvines of Castle Irvine, Ireland

Christopher Irvine (who died in 1666) was grandson of "Black Christie" Irving¹⁸ of Robgill / Bonshaw was granted lands in the Ulster Plantation. He was a London Barrister to whom, along with friends Gerald Lowther and Lancelot Carlton, King James I granted lands in County Fermanagh, Ireland (1613). They each acquired adjacent lands in county Fermanagh north of Enniskillen to the east of Lough (lake) Erne. Lowther was appointed Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for Ireland. Christopher Irvine also acquired lands of Coolgarren and Ballindullagh. Christopher might not have actually moved to Ireland for a number of years. Records show he resided in County Fermanagh by 1630, and probably before. Gerald Lowther died and his heirs wanted to live Dublin, not in the country estates of Nekarney, so Christopher Irvine leased Lowther's land in 1632.

Being one of the original receivers of a grant of land in the Ulster Plantation, Christopher needed to set up legal tenants on his new lands; thus it is reasonable to expect they came from his home lands in the

18 Black Christie Irving was a ruthless border reiver who got his name from the black armor he wore.

Annan-Dumfries area of Scotland. Maybe some with the surname Irving / Irvine.

It appears that Christopher intended to stay in Ireland only temporarily¹⁹ and return to Scotland where his eldest son and his two daughters resided with their husbands. But appears to have stayed possibly due the Irish Rebellion that started October 23, 1641. The Irvines and others in Lowtherstown were able to escape to the safety of the British fortified establishment in Enniskillen. The next year, the English Civil War began in England which spilled over to Scotland and Ireland; which may have persuaded Christopher there was no sense returning to Scotland. Christopher survived the rebellion, and was able to purchase all of Lowther's land in 1666, but died prior to the transfer of ownership. His son and heir in Ireland, Lt. Col. Gerrard Irvine became owner. Gerrard built castle Irvine which was named Castle Fartagh, but the locals just called it Castle Irvine and that name stuck. Castle Irvine in Irvinestown, county Fernanagh is now known as Necarne and is home to an equestrian center and riding school. It served as a hospital during WW-II. The town of Irvinestown was established in 1618 with the Ulster Plantation but was originally named Lowtherstown after the then owner Sir Gerald Lowther. The first official record with the town name appearing as Irvinestown was not until the 1861 census but early 19th century church records use the new name. Castle Irvine eventually passed out of the family after nine generations.

Christopher Irvine had four sons – Dr. Christopher of Edinburgh, his heir in Scotland; Gerrard (Gerald), his heir in Ireland; Lancelot who died unmarried before his father and lastly a son William. His two daughters relocated to Ireland after the death of each of their husbands back in Scotland. Information on the descendants of Christopher Irvine of Castle Irvine is published in Burke's book *The History of the Landed Gentry of Ireland*²⁰. That information provides no clues to possible ancestors of our ancestor, William. But does provide additional place names where Irvine families resided, thus worth investigating.

Christopher's heir in Ireland was created a baronet, as Sir Gerrard Irvine of Castle Irvine; but it is from his youngest son, William Irvine of Ballindullagh that a vast family is descended, with members widely distributed throughout the English-speaking world today. The son and heir of Christopher in Scotland, Dr. Christopher Irvine (Historiographer Royal of Scotland and First Physician to King James VII) wrote the earliest history of the Irvings in 1678.

Robert Irwin

Most Irving family histories include this story - Robert Irwin of Drum Castle, Aberdeenshire, Scotland took a leading part in Prince Charlie Edward's failed Jacobite rebellion in 1745-6, and fled to Ireland. He settled in County Tyrone about four miles from Drumglass. He lived there with his eldest son, also named Robert. Back at Drum, John the younger brother of Robert (the elder) was loyal to their monarch, King George and got Drum Castle. But he sent money to his brother in Ireland so Robert could purchase land and build the house (Moree). Moree was sold upon the death of the son Robert to settle debts in 1818.

However, somewhat recent information punches holes in that story. It seems the Robert Irwin of Moree was already in Ireland in the 1720's, well before the Jacobite rebellion and Robert's supposed escape

19 It is my belief that some of the Undertakers saw the Ulster Plantation as an investment where they could get cheap land, but did not intend to reside full time in Ireland.

20 See bibliography

from prosecution. Maybe the Robert of Drum fled to parts unknown; but it appears he is not the Robert Irwin of Moree and Drumglass. Recent DNA test samples from a male ancestor of the Drumglass Irwin family reveals no connection to Drum, or Scotland for that matter²¹.

Surname in Ireland

A writeup on the IRVINE, ERVINE, IRWIN, ERWIN surname in Ireland²² provides the following:

The best known are those of Irvinestown, Co. Fermanagh. Irvinestown, which lies close to the County Tyrone border, was formerly called Lowtherstown and even as late as the beginning of the 20th century it was described as "Irvinestown or Lowtherstown": the new name first appeared officially in the census returns for 1861. The name Lowtherstown itself only dates from the seventeenth century. They [*IRVINE*] became a very influential landlord family: in 1878 eight landlords of the name possessed 12,189 acres in Co. Fermanagh, 4,621 in Co. Tyrone, 14,352 in Co. Donegal as well as more than 5,000 acres in other counties. In the same year there were 17 landowners named Irwin possessing 29,000 acres between them, most of which lay in Connacht [*Province*], though seven of them held extensive estates in Fermanagh and other Ulster counties. Irwin and Irvine have been confused, the first of the Irvines of Irvinestown appeared in the "census" of 1659 as Irwin, the titulado (title holder) of Lowtherstown was recorded as William Irwin. In 1695 "Christopher Erwin of Castle Irwin", Co. Fermanagh, was M.P for Fermanagh; and in 1714 the owner of Castle Irvine signed his will 'Christopher Irwin', while in 1755 the will of his successor to the estate bears the signature "Christopher Irvine". Irvine is taken from a Scottish place-name. The two most notable of the name were both Ulsterman: William Irvine (b. Co. Fermanagh 1740) who took a prominent part in the American War of Independence (discussed later); and Thomas Caulfield Irwin (b. Co. Down 1823) who was regarded in his time as one of Ireland's most distinguished poets. Dr. Alexander Irwin (d. 1779), Bishop of Killiaia, was from Elphin.

From that writeup it appears there were people of the surname in counties other than those in Ulster province.

Ireland to America

Some Irving / Irvine individuals, families, or descendants who moved from Scotland to lands on the Ulster Plantation end up moving to America predominantly in the first half of the 18th century (about 1730's). These families sailed to Philadelphia enticed by the marketing of William Penn's colony – Pennsylvania. Some initially settled in Pennsylvania, most moved to lush valley locations in Virginia or North Carolina. Some members of subsequent generations settling in Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, and elsewhere. These immigrants were mostly farmers and the rich soil that had never seen a plow was a wonder to those who had only seen soil depleted by centuries of ancestors in the old country. Crops couldn't help but grow. A number of these family members appear on the rolls of French and Indian as well as the Revolutionary Wars.

²¹ There is always the possibility of what DNA researchers call a Non-Parental Event which screws up the DNA results

²² found on the GoIreland website (a travel related hotel booking website)

William Irvine (1741-1804) was born near Enniskillen, Ireland of the Fermanagh branch of the family. He studied medicine and joined the Royal Navy as a ships surgeon, but resigned and immigrated to the Pennsylvania colony settling in Carlisle to practice medicine. He sided with the revolutionaries, was appointed to the provincial convention which met at Philadelphia in 1774 and was appointed a Colonel of the 6th Pennsylvania Infantry. He fought in Canada at Three Rivers where he was taken prisoner but later released on parole. He was made brigadier-general in 1779 and fought at Staten Island. In 1782 he was sent to command Fort Pitt. He was a member of the Continental Congress of 1786 and the third US Congress (1793-1795). Two brothers (Andrew and Mathew) also served in the revolution (so must have immigrated also from Ireland). The village of Irvine, Pennsylvania is named after the general.

These are not our ancestors but probably distant kin due to we all tie back to the Dumfries area of southwestern Scotland.

Families with the Irving, Irvine, Irwin, etc. surname left Ireland for other British colonies; settling in Australia, New Zealand, and Canada where some have descendants living today.

James Irvine

James Irvine was born in county Down, Ireland in 1827, the second to youngest of nine children. In 1845 during the Irish potato crop failure James and younger brother William were sent to America. Landing in New York, James ends up as a merchant and part-time gold miner in California. An astute businessman investing in real estate in San Francisco and as a silent partner in a sheep raising venture which purchased Mexican land grants in southern California after the Mexican war. James died in 1886.

His son, also James, eventually buys out the Flint Bixby & Co. partners (the sheep raising venture) resulting in him owning about one third (about 110,000 acres) of today's Orange County²³, California south of Los Angeles and he formed the Irvine Co. He lived in San Francisco until the 1906 earthquake when he moved to the Irvine Ranch in Orange county. He formed the Irvine Foundation in 1937 and died in 1947. Myford Plum Irvine (1898–1959), James II's only surviving child, took over the presidency of the Irvine Company. The Irvines are one of the wealthiest families in California. One of the original Mexican land grants acquired by Irvine was Rancho San Joaquin which was purchased from José Antonio Andres Sepúlveda in 1864. This ranch land later became parts of the current day towns of Anaheim, Laguna Beach, Newport Beach, Tustin and of course Irvine.

The city of Irvine exists on land provided by the Irvine Company and was previously part of the Irvine Ranch. The land was initially donated (1000 acres in 1959 with the state purchasing an additional 500 acres) to establish a campus of the University of California (UC Irvine) as the core with residence and businesses divisions to support the university and residents, eventually growing into the city of today which was incorporated in 1971.

Other than they lived in county Down, no information about the parents, ancestors or origins of this Irvine family has been discovered. We know the names of only two of the eight siblings of James; William and George. We can only suspect that they came from Scotland, possibly as tenants of the Ulster Plantation due to that part of Ireland being in the Ulster province.

23 Orange County came into existence in 1889 when it was split off from Los Angeles County

Irving Coats of Arms

The Arms was originally worn by a knight in a steel suit of armor with the purpose of identifying the individual hidden in the armor. The knight's symbol was painted on his shield and the shield was worn on his arm. Thus the symbol identifying the knight became known as his *Arms*. It was also painted on cloth worn over the armor, like a vest, and called the *surcoat* (surname coat). Thus a *Coat of Arms* identifies a single individual – the individual who has been authorized to use that design. In the UK, and elsewhere in Europe, some people get upset with families, especially in the Colonies, using the Coat of Arms of an ancestor or just someone with the same last name as a symbol for their family.

Robert the Bruce frequently received help and refuge from the Irvines of Bonshaw during his famous, protracted fight with the English. William de Irwyn was one of his principle aides. As legend has it, King Robert was suddenly put to flight by his enemies with only a few of his aides to assist him. During the course of the exhausting flight, Robert slept under a holly tree while William de Irwyn stood guard. This event is alleged to be the source of the Irvine coat of arms. Holly leaves are a prominent feature in the Irvine coat of arms. Possibly also relevant – the holly tree is considered one of the most sacred objects in old Celtic culture.

It was from Robert the Bruce the Irvings and Irvines got their Arms – *Argent, three holly leaves proper*. Translated, this means: on a white background (*Argent*), three holly leaves up-right (*proper*). These Arms are depicted in Illustration 4. One must assume that the holly leaves are rendered in their natural color (dark green) for the text description is silent of the color of the leaves.

The Court of the Lord Lyon of Scotland was established in the 14th century but it wasn't until 1672 an Act of the Scottish Parliament authorized the creation of the Public Register of all Arms and Bearings in Scotland. This Register is maintained by the Lyon Clerk and contains an official copy of every Coat of Arms granted in Scotland since 1672. William Irving of Bonshaw registered Arms in 1673 and the Irvines of Drum successfully altered their Arms (officially registered in 1676) to three branches each of three holly leaves.

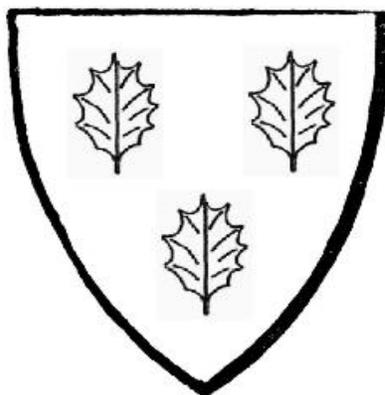


Illustration 4: Irving (Bonshaw) Arms

The Irvine (of Drum) Arms are based on the Bonshaw Arms. The Irvine of Drum Arms replace each single holly leaf with a bundle of three holly leaves with a string tied at the base of each bundle. The string is usually colored red. Illustration 5 shows a rendering of the Irvine of Drum arms. Some renderings of the Drum Arms include holly tree branches instead of the bundle of three holly leaves.

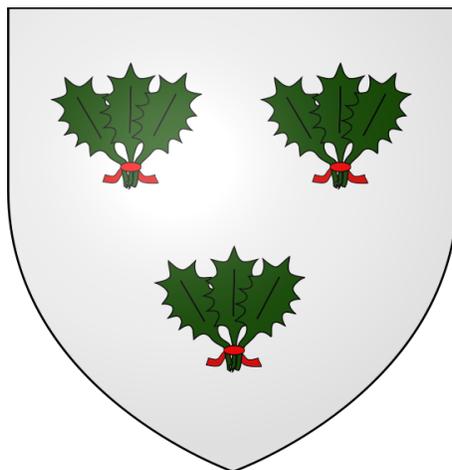


Illustration 5: Irvine (Drum) Arms

The design rendered on a shield forms the most significant part of a Coat of Arms, but there are other parts, those being the *Helm*, or helmet; *Mantle*, appears as a ribbon above the helmet - if there is one; and the *Crest*, which appears at the top. The image rendered on the Crest and the mantle, if there is one, is sometimes duplicated to create a *Badge* authorized to be worn by any member of that clan. The term Family Crest is sometimes erroneously used. Today, men and women of the clan are authorized to display the badge; usually they wear this badge as a brooch or pin to show association with the clan.



The Badge shown at left is that for the Bonshaw family branch. It shows the branch of a holly tree with seven holly leaves held by a gauntleted hand (hand in armor). The included motto translates into English as *Yielding under no winds*. The image of the holly branch depicted was the original symbol for the arms used by the Irvines of Drum, but is also the symbol on the Crest of the Bonshaw Coat of Arms.

The Badge shown at right is that used by the Drum family branch. The bundle of holly leaves is consistent with the bundle sometimes shown in the Drum Arms. When the arms were given by King Robert I (*the Bruce*) he also gave the Irvines their motto: “Sub sole sub umbra virens”, which translates to *Thriving under sun and shade*.



The significance of the number of holly leaves or the number of bunches of leaves has not been discovered – if there is one. It has been suggested that the original purpose of a

motto was to be used as a password to enter the encampment of the leader.

The Bonshaw Coat of Arms²⁴, Crest, and Motto are shown in Illustration 6 which has never been changed; the clan chief of the Bonshaw branch of the family has used this Coat of Arms since 1673 or before. Viewing that Coat of Arms you can see how the Crest and Mantle, above the Hem (helmet), is used to create the Clan Badge.

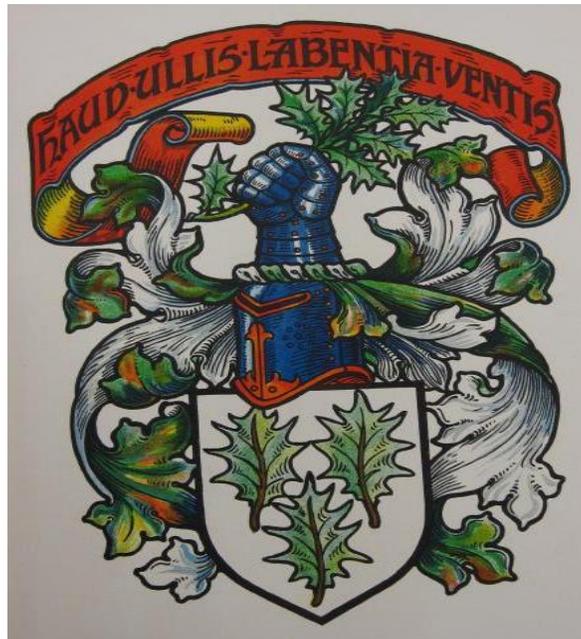


Illustration 6: Bonshaw Coat of Arms

The Coat of Arms awarded in 1673 by the Court of Lion in Scotland to Lt. Col. Gerald Irvine of Castle Irvine in County Fermanagh, Ireland are shown in Illustration 7 and shows the descent of this family from Bonshaw. The red bar, called a Fess implies: *readiness to serve the public*. In general the color red signifies Warrior or martyr, military strength and magnanimity. The Crest is a Scottish Thistle

²⁴ This image and the one for Sir Gerald Irvine is from the 1907 book by John Beaufin Irving



Illustration 7: Arms Awarded to Lt. Col. Gerald Irvine of Co. Fermanagh

Burke's 1884 book on General Armory²⁵ lists descriptions of arms for 20 IRVINE individuals, three IRVING, three IRWIN, as well as a few other spellings, such as IRWINE. Virtually all match either Bonshaw or Drum arms. A few instances of the family arms being *quartered*, or *marshaled* (joined with another family through an Heiress) exist. Burke's book also explains everything you might wish to know on the subject of Heraldry including the parts, symbolics, meanings, and history of the Coat of Arms.

²⁵ See Bibliography

Irving Locations

Locations in the United Kingdom with relevance to Irving history are depicted on the map in Illustration 11 with explanations following the map.

The original ancestors of the Irving Clan first settled on the western shores of today's Scotland at a place that bears the clan name – the town of Irvine. Centuries later members of the clan moved south to the border area to establish defensible strongholds to protect Scotland from incursions from the English (Anglo-Saxons). One of these strongholds is Bonshaw Tower which became an important family seat for the Irvings. A member of this Bonshaw branch was rewarded by Robert the Bruce (King of the Scots) with lands and the castle of Drum, near Aberdeen in north east Scotland. Individuals from both Bonshaw and Drum families moved to northern Ireland. So by the middle of the 18th century there are three significant branches of the family in the UK – at Bonshaw, Drum, and northern Ireland.

The defensive towers built on both sides of the Scottish – English border were originally constructed of wood but later replaced with stone structures. In addition to Bonshaw other towers were built by the Irvings in the area of Annan with names like Woodhouse, Stapleton, and Robgill; the map in Illustration 3 identifies the other tower houses. The present stone Bonshaw Tower, shown in Illustration 8, was built about 1600 and the house adjacent built about 1770.

The lands (Royal Forest of Drum) and castle of Drum initially awarded to William Irvine by Robert the Bruce consisted of the Tower and 8,000 acres. The buildings were added to over the generations to their present state; shown in Illustration 9. In 1975 Henry Quintin Forbes Irvine, the twenty-fourth Laird, and the last one to live on site, turned over Drum Castle and 411 acres of the original estate to the National Trust of Scotland.

Although Castle Irvine located in Irvinestown, Co. Fermanagh, Northern Ireland remains, shown in Illustration 10, the castle structure is just a boarded up shell and not used. The lands are an equestrian center named Necarne.

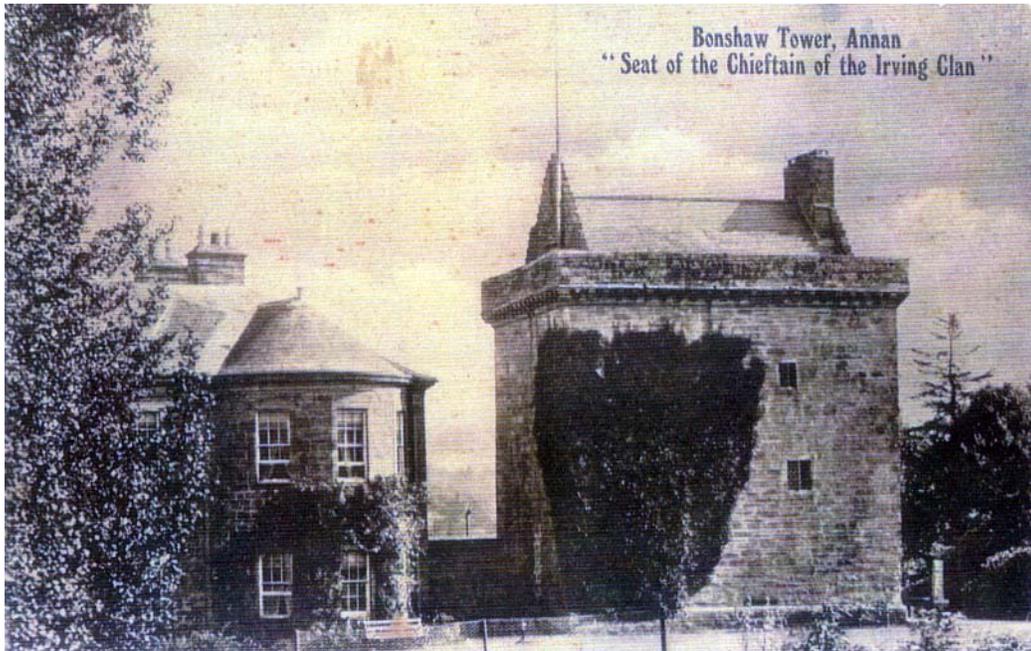


Illustration 8: Bonshaw Tower and Manor House photo about 1915



Illustration 9: Drum Castle



Illustration 10: Built as Irvine Castle now Necarne Castle

Locations in Irving History

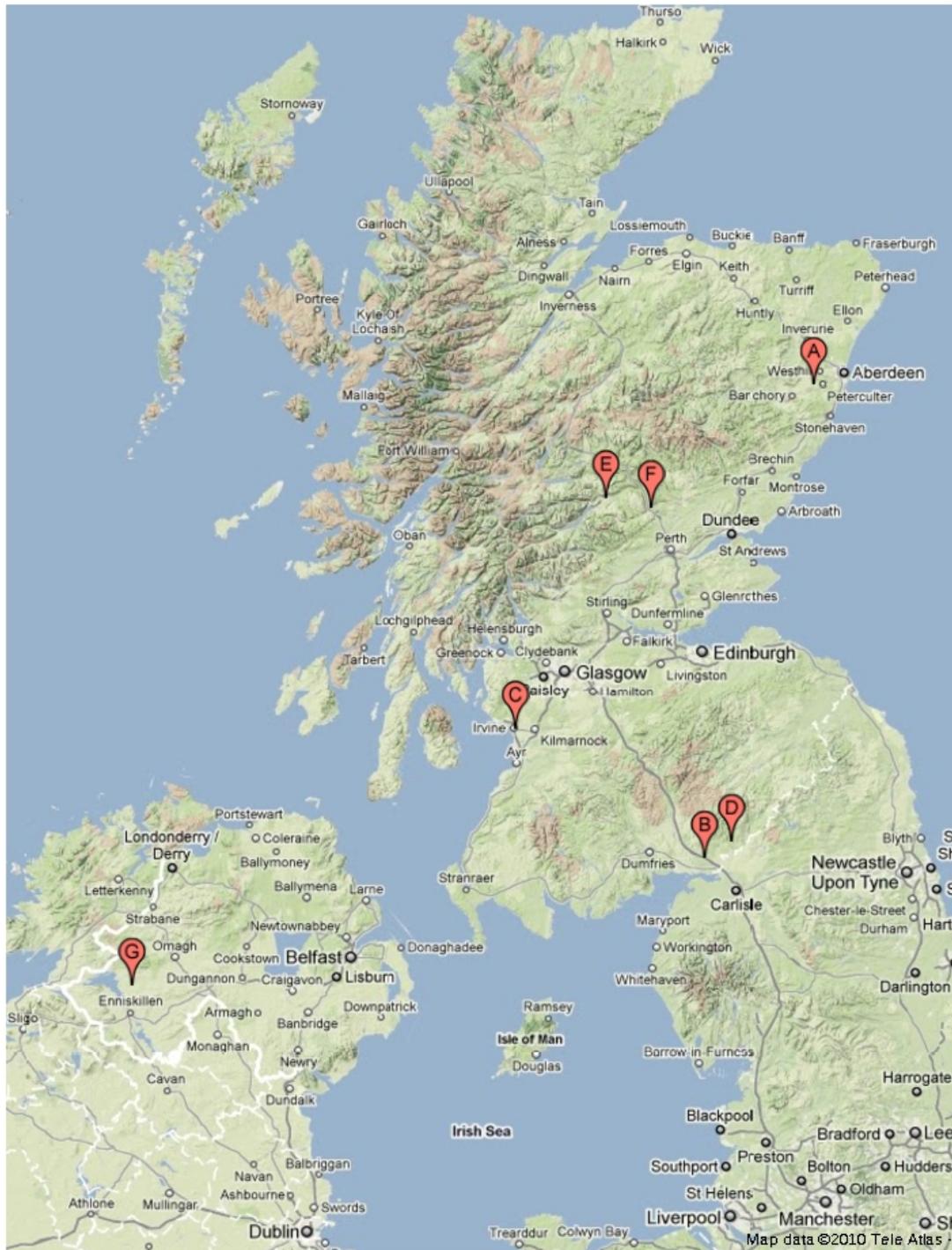


Illustration 11: Map of Scotland and Ireland with Significant Locations in Irving History

Illustration 11 Shows a map identifying locations in the UK with significance to the Irving history mentioned in this report. Locations identified with letters are explained below:

Identifier	Explanation
A	Drum Castle – Castle (probably originally just the Tower) and Lands awarded to Sir William Irwyn by Robert the Bruce (King) in 1323. It has the oldest keep (tower) in Scotland. It remained in the hands of the Irvine Clan until it was transferred to the National Trust of Scotland (in 1975).
B	Bonshaw Tower – Seat of the Border Clan of Irving. The Clan possessed lands from the Esk river to the east and the Annan river to the west. This branch of the Irving Clan is sometimes referred to as the Irvings of Dumfries or Dumfriesshire. Bonshaw is still in the possession of the Irving Clan as a private family home and is available for private events, such as weddings. See http://www.bonshaw.org/
C	Town and River of Irvine – Initial seat of the Irving Clan established during, or before, the Roman occupation of Briton.
D	Irvine Hall (house or castle), Irvine Wood, and Irvine Burn on the river Esk – Initial location of Border Clan Irving before adding Bonshaw lands. Irving Clan members moved from the area of the Town of Irvine (map reference C) and settled near the border with England to protect Scotland from invaders from the south. A little to the east of marker D is where Eskdale and Annandale moor lands are located, these are lands given to the family <i>de Brus</i> (the Bruce) by King David I and where they made their family home.
E	Town of Dull (Dule) – Seat of the Abathane of Dule who started the house of Dunkeld, kings of Scotland.
F	Town of Dunkeld – home to the House of Dunkeld (early Kings of Scotland).
G	Town of Irvinestown and Irvine Castle, County Fermanagh Ireland – Irvings of Bonshaw settled here and built the castle during the Ulster Plantation period. Irvine Castle is now named Necarne Castle and used as for equestrian events.

Table 1: Map Explanations

If you are reading this via a computer and are connected to the Internet you can follow this [link](#) to access this map with the ability to zoom to see greater detail.

Our Irving Line

We believe that we are descended from Irving / Irvine ancestors who lived in Ireland but were originally from Scotland, probably the Bonshaw branch from the Dumfries area. But we cannot substantiate that claim. As stated earlier, some Irvings moved to Ireland associated with the establishment of the British Ulster Plantation in the early 17th century. Our ancestors may have been *British Tenants* on the Ulster Plantation who relocated from Scotland then or at some later time.

Although our earliest known Irving ancestor lived in Saint John, New Brunswick, there is no known relation with the prosperous Irving family of Saint John, owners of the Irving conglomerate of companies (including Irving Oil) privately owned by the Irving family of New Brunswick, Canada. That family came to New Brunswick about 1829 direct from the Dumfries area of Scotland, not through Ireland. The first company formed by a son, J. D. Irving, of the immigrant of that family was begun in 1882.

William Irving of Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada

Little is known of our original Irving ancestor who immigrated to North America, sorry to say. On August 1, 1867 William Irving married Anna Adelaide Seely. Both had resided in Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada. The record of this marriage is the oldest document relating to this William we know about.

The 1881 Saint John, New Brunswick census states that he is of Irish descent, was 74 years old and is of the Wesleyan Methodist religion. From that entry we calculate he was born about 1808, presumably in Ireland. But he may have been born in Canada to parents of Irish descent. William's profession is listed as laborer, so it is doubtful he came from a prominent family of position.

That same census lists his wife, Anna, as being of English descent. We know her lineage; she is of the well documented Seely family and was born in Canada, as was her father. Her grandfather and ancestors for six generations were born in Connecticut, (English Colonies) prior to the founding of the United States of America. Her sixth great-grandfather was born in England and immigrated to the American colonies prior to 1644. The Seely's were Loyalist and exiled from the United States after the American Revolution and obtained land grants in New Brunswick. Yet the census recorded her being of English descent. How many generations does it take before you are considered to be of Canadian descent? William may have been born in Ireland, but all we can say from this 1881 census is that his ancestors lived in Ireland. No research to date has uncovered a birth record for William, so we do not know where in Ireland he or his ancestors lived.

All government records for the Portland Parish of Saint John, New Brunswick were lost in the great fire of Saint John in 1877; so there are no surviving government records prior to 1877. To confound things, the records in Ireland were mostly lost too²⁶, so locating any government records on either side of the Atlantic seems unlikely.

The 1881 census has William's wife Anna aged 40 and was of the Calvinist Baptist religion. They were married in the Wesleyan church (his religion) whose records did survive, we have a copy of their

²⁶ Irish records were lost to fire and some believe they were burned intentionally by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) to prevent being used by the English to identify relatives of Irish rebels.

marriage entry from the church register. William was about 60 years old in 1867 when he married Anna, so it is likely this was not his first marriage. Anna was 33 years old when they married. The 1891 census lists the whole family as being Baptist. This might be an error.

It seems safe to assume William was of the Wesleyan Methodist religion. Methodist meeting houses existed in Ireland as early as 1740, but members usually held dual membership – retaining membership in the local parish church, likely the Church of Ireland. Methodists in Ireland were first allowed to have the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion in 1816. So it is most likely that if a baptism record for William exists in Ireland it will be found in records of the Church of Ireland. Obviously, we do not know when William became a Methodist, or if his parents were Methodists.

There is a book researched and written by Graeme Somerville titled *A library of Stone Pages* that gives an account of those buried in the Wesleyan Burial Ground in Saint John (New Brunswick, Canada). The entry for William Irvine in this book states:

IRVINE – William died of old age 16 May 1894, age 86. Born in Ireland. This may be the William IRVINE who emigrated to Saint John June 1833. Widower of Jane (died 1 Jan 1867)²⁷. Husband of Adelaide SEELY who he married at Saint John 1 Aug 1867. Survived by his wife Adelaide and possibly by four children, William, Isabella, Lynes Dudley and Mabel Alberta. Occupation laborer. Residence 93 Sheriff St. Probably Lot W38.

The Somerville book suggests that William came to Saint John in 1833 (he would have been about 25 years old then) and he had a wife named Jane who died six months prior to William's marriage to Anna Adelaide Seely; plausible. Somerville suggests there might have been four surviving children, we know of only three. Two of the names given by Somerville of William's children do not agree with other documents we know of. There are no known marriage records for William and first wife Jane; but we believe he had a first wife (Jane) and they had two children by that union. As far as the children named William and Isabella, Somerville got his facts wrong. At the time of William's death in 1894 his household would have consisted of only his wife Anna Adelaide and youngest daughter Mabel Alberta. By 1894 his eldest daughter Jennie Virginia (by Anna Adelaide) was married not living with her parents, his second child (by Anna Adelaide), Linus Dudley, had moved to Boston, Mass area where he was working as a book binder, a trade he began in Saint John. The two children by his first wife, Jane, both died before their father, William.

Believable evidence of an earlier marriage for William has been discovered in newspaper entries from Saint John, New Brunswick which provide the following:

- January 12, 1867 – died, Friday 11th inst., Sarah Jane, only daughter of William Irvine, aged 32 years. Funeral from her fathers residence Sheriff St., Portland district (Saint John).
- February 2, 1867 – died, Friday 1st inst., Jane, wife of William Irvine, age 57. Funeral from her residence Sheriff St., Portland district (Saint John).
- August 20, 1869 – died, Thursday 19th inst., James Irvine, age 34 years, Funeral from his father's residence Sheriff St. Portland (Saint John).

Assuming the William Irvine living on Sheriff St. is our ancestor (very likely), it appears he had a wife

²⁷ According to newspaper notice Jane died 1 Feb. 1867, not 1 January. Another error of Somerville's.

Jane and two children, Sarah Jane Irvine and James Irvine. It is possible that these children were twins, for they were born in the same year. His daughter and wife both died in early 1867 (one month apart). Remember government documents were lost in the Great Saint John Fire of 1877. So marriage to Jane (if that occurred in Saint John) and birth/death registry entries for the two children of William and Jane were also lost in the Great Fire. The possibility of church records for baptism of Sarah and James have not been discovered. Sarah Jane, only daughter of William Irvine was buried, we believe, in the same Wesleyan Burial Ground in Saint John as William. No record of burial for first wife Jane nor son James have been discovered.

The fact that first wife Jane died a few weeks after their daughter might infer the wife contracted a disease while caring for the sick daughter; but that is pure speculation. The daughter was 32 years old and unmarried – can anything be inferred from her not being married?

He married Anna Seely in August of that year (6 months after the death of his first wife) and two years later his son by Jane dies. First wife Jane was about two years younger than William. His two children by Jane were born in 1835, so if, as speculated, William came to Canada in 1833 his children were born in Canada. One could infer that he married Jane in Canada, but it is equally possible that he married Jane before leaving Ireland. One can only speculate on the circumstances of why Anna Seely married William who was twice her age. Did William need a care giver for his 32 year old son?

William and second wife Anna had three children; the first (a daughter Jennie Virginia) being born in March of 1868, eight months after their marriage and prior to the death of William's son James by his first wife. Five years pass before the next child by Anna Adelaide was born (Linus Dudley, born August 1873) and eight months later the last child (Mabel Alberta, born Mar 1874).

A search of available passenger lists for ships arriving in Saint John in the time period has uncovered no record of our William. If William was born in Ireland he was a British subject and moving to Canada required no naturalization, thus no citizenship records exist, or were needed. Too bad, because those would probably identify where in Ireland he came from.

Back to that old *how to spell the surname* discussion; the Somerville book and marriage registry have IRVINE, as do the newspaper entries listed above, while the 1881 and 1891 census has IRVING. The 1892 newspaper notice of the marriage of eldest daughter Jennie to Walter Campbell gives Jennie's surname as IRVING and her father as William IRVING, Esq. Linus Dudley's marriage certificate spells it IRVING as does all records relating to Linus and his descendants. Linus spelled his fathers name as William IRVING.

William and Anna Adelaide as well as their three children: Jennie Virginia, Linus Dudley, and Mabel Alberta all appear on the 1881 and 1891 census for Saint John. Earlier records were lost in the great fire in 1877. Linus immigrated to the United States in 1892 and settled in Cambridge, MA. Linus' mother and younger sister joined Linus in the United States after William died in 1894; based on the 1900 census for Cambridge, MA. Eventually all three children end up residing in the Boston, Mass area with their spouses and children.

Linus Dudley was a book binder and in 1905 married Annie Mae Hannam who was a typesetter, who he probably met through work. They had nine children, but only eight survived childhood. The first born male, a twin named Linus Dudley, died young (age 2 years) and the other twin was John Fremont the only surviving male, the rest of their children were female. All but one of those children married and had children of their own.

Disappointed at not being able to identify William Irving's ancestors somewhere in the United Kingdom a DNA sample was submitted in the hope of providing additional aid to subsequent generations. This sample is for a great grandson with direct male descent from William of Saint John, New Brunswick. Comparison to other available Irving DNA samples indicates a high probability that our Irving line is descended from some unidentified Irving ancestor who lived in the area of Dumfries, Scotland in the 13th or 14th century. This is the area near Bonshaw Tower, but because the Irvings of Drum are descended from those of Bonshaw no one can say if we are of Bonshaw or of Drum. The Irvines did not get Drum until 1323. Until more DNA samples are submitted and compared there is no way to imply which line or when our ancestors removed to Ireland where we presume William was born.

For our DNA test sample to be useful, at least one Irving male with known ancestry in Ireland and/or Scotland needs to submit samples that compare favorably with our sample and that person knows his pedigree. Ideally some Irving male, probably born in Ireland matches with our sample and he knows his family history including where in Ireland the ancestral family lived, when they moved from Scotland, and where in Scotland their ancestors lived. The Clan Irwin DNA Study website should be periodically inspected for new records that compare favorably with our sample.

The Clan Irwin DNA Study project website is at: <http://dnastudy.clanirwin.org/> and our record is identified by the ID # TC3BZ. The record ID is used so the submitter remains anonymous. All the data submitted to this project is available as a spreadsheet file which can be downloaded from that website. Information about DNA for genealogy, what knowledge has been discerned thus far, and how to submit your own sample is available at the clanirwin website. The study administrator is knowledgeable and willing to help; so do not hesitate to ask for assistance.

Glossary

Terms and their meanings as used in this and referenced texts.

Term	Meaning
Abthane	<p>Crinus or Crinan (father of King Duncan I) held the title of Abthane of Dull (or Dul). This title appears to be unique to early Scotland. A <i>thane</i> is a regional leader (like an Earl or Governor) and the <i>Abthane</i> is the chief over all thanes. Another modern association might be to say the Abthane is the chief collector of the kings rents.</p> <p>Thane and Abthane are ancient titles with controversy over just what the title meant. The Internet provides various meanings, if interested.</p>
Albin or Alba	<p>Celtic name for what is now referred to as Scotland. In Gaelic it referred to the lands north of the Firth of Forth and the Firth of Clyde – the kingdom of the Picts. In Latin texts it appears as Albion, but in those texts it referred to Briton as a whole.</p> <p>For Albin-Scot see Scotti, below.</p>
Caledonia	<p>Circa 150 A. D. Roman name for present day central Scotland. Residents were referred to by the Romans as Caledonians or later as the Picts.</p>
Church of England	<p>The State Church of England with the Monarch as the head of the church. It is the “Anglican” church, referred to as Episcopal church outside England. Protestant beliefs but with Catholic-like organization (Bishops) and some Catholic traditions in its worship services.</p> <p>As the Church of England bases its teachings on the Holy Scriptures, the ancient Catholic teachings of the Church Fathers and some of the doctrinal principles of the Protestant Reformation, Anglicanism can therefore be described as "Reformed Catholic" in character rather than Protestant. In practice, however, it is more mixed, with Anglicans who emphasize the Catholic tradition and others the Reformed tradition.</p>
Church of Ireland	<p>An autonomous province of the Anglican Communion. Episcopal. Protestant. Established in 1536 by Henry VIII when he declared himself King of Ireland and had just broke with the Catholic Church in Rome. It was the established church in Ireland up until 1869 when the church became independent from government. However, the majority of citizens of Ireland were Catholic.</p>
Church of Scotland	<p>Known as the <i>Kirk</i> in the lowland Scottish language. Presbyterian variant of Protestant beliefs and organization. Although the national church in Scotland, it is not a “State Church”. It is recognized by Scottish Parliament, but is now independent from the State in religious matters.</p> <p>Ostensibly formed during the Scottish reformation (1560) which broke with the Church in Rome. One of the leaders was of this reformation was John Knox.</p>
Erin	<p>Celtic name for what is now referred to as the island of Ireland. Erin also referred to the direction west – Erin (Ireland) is west of Albin (Scotland). Celts of Ireland referred to their place of residence as Erin. Irish word for Ireland – <i>Eirinn</i> has masculine form <i>Eire</i> and female personification is <i>Erin</i>.</p> <p>The etymology of the word in the Gaelic region as used by the early Scots meant</p>

Term	Meaning
	both Ireland and “west”.
Gael	Or Goidels are people that spoke of one of the Goidelic Celtic languages (Irish and Scottish Gaelic). So, Gaels does not refer to a tribe or race of people specifically. The Latins referred to the Gaelic language as Scottish. See <i>Scotti</i> .
Jacobite	<p>A political movement beginning in 1688 with the deposing of King James II of England (James VII of Scotland) and the crowning of the <i>German</i> King George I (of the Hanover's House of Brunswick) as the new King of England. The first uprising began in 1715 but the major uprising was in 1745-6; principally ending in 1788 with the death of Bonnie Prince Charles.</p> <p>The term Jacobite derives from Latin <i>Jacobus</i>, the Biblical name Jacob from which the name James derives. Followers of the Jacobite movement wanted the Stuarts returned to the Throne of England, Scotland and the Kingdom of Ireland and the return of Catholicism as the national religion. The movement had supporters throughout the United Kingdom, foreign monarchs and naturally the Pope in Rome but was not successful.</p>
Peel Tower	Also Pele Tower or Keep. A defensible watch and signaling tower in the English-Scots border region. Residents on both sides of the border built these structures initially of wood and later of stone. Some built of stone still remain, such as Bonshaw. Later more comfortable homes were built adjacent to, or replaced the towers.
Picts	<p>Celtic tribes residing in present day Scotland before the Roman conquest of Briton. They merged with the Gaels in the 10th century. In the 11th century the people of that region became known as the Scots.</p> <p>The name Picts (not what they called themselves) comes from Latin <i>picti</i> referring to the painted or tattooed people. There is no evidence that Picts tattooed themselves. Speculation – maybe they used war paint as the American natives did.</p>
Scotti	<p>Scotti (or Scoti) was a Latin term used by the Romans during their occupation of Briton to refer to people from Ireland who raided the Roman settlements in western Briton. These raiders established a kingdom in western <i>Albin</i> (Scotland) leading to the use of the terms Scot, Scottish, and Scotland.</p> <p>Later two groups of Scots where distinguished as Irin-Scots (Irish) and Albin-Scots (Scottish). Over time those from Irin dropped the word Scot to become Irish and those of Albin dropped the Albin and became just Scots.</p>

Bibliography

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- [d] Burke, Bernard, Sir; *The General Armory of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales*. London: Harrison & Sons; 1884; available on the Internet.
- [e] Burke, Bernard, Sir; *History of the Landed Gentry of Ireland*. London: Harrison & Sons; 1899 (9th Edition); available in PDF.
- [f] McDowell, John Hugh, *History of the McDowells, Erwins, Irwins and Connections*. Memphis: C. B. Johnston & Co.; 1918; available in PDF.

Websites of Interest

Internet content and search engines will continue to improve and should periodically be explored for new information surfacing. Miscellaneous websites that might contain information of interest or provide additional information pertinent to the subject of this paper.

http://www.igp-web.com/	Ireland Genealogy Project (IGP) – information by county to aid genealogy research. Counties of Northern Ireland seem the most logical to search. Worth watching for new material being added.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Scottish_monarchs	Chronological list of the Monarchs of Scotland grouped by the family House with links to additional details for each Monarch. The House of Dunkeld is believed to be of the Erinviene (Irving) Clan.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_English_monarchs	Chronological list of the Monarchs of England grouped by the family House with links to additional details for each House and Monarch.
http://www.clanirving.com/default.asp	Clan Irving website includes miscellaneous information and some descendant charts for branches of the family. Hopefully these charts will expand over time. This site leans toward being a commercial site and appears to have not been updated lately.
http://www.selectsurnames2.com/irving.html	Select Surnames. Includes miscellaneous information and trivia relating to Irving and people with that surname.