



**"One effort more, and Scotland's free!
Lord of the Isles, My trust in thee"
1314, BANNOCKBURN.**

Walter Scott, 1828.



IAN MACDONNELL - FINLAGGAN COUNCILLOR, HIGH COUNCIL OF CLAN DONALD

To Mr Murdo Fraser MSP, Convener,
Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee [Clerk: Jane Williams].

25 March 2013

BANNOCKBURN 2014, APRIL MEETING : "LORD OF THE ISLES, MY TRUST IN THEE".

Dear Murdo and EET Committee,

The Committee's stated remit is to seek evidence in relation to the planning of Bannockburn 2014. Part of that planning I imagine is some executive oversight of the process by the [voluntary panel](#) to ensure that the new interpretation and re-enactment is in fact strong and academically sound, based on acceptable and authoritative research. In particular, the Highlands and Islands Constituencies and Members are deserved of particular emphasis in your executive oversighting just to ensure proper historic balance of prominence in the Battle of Bannockburn interpretation.

Correspondence to this committee from the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, Jan 2013, has stressed :- "At our 2012 clan conference in Atlanta, the idea of a re-enactment as a 'clan event' in 2014 was not particularly well received, which surprised me." Our submission has some relevance in this context and will partially address the SCoSC concern in an ancillary way and help ensure that the re-enactment is perceived as a genuine "clan event".

"[CLAN DONALD VOL 1](#)"; p.98. *"The attack of the Highlanders and the men of Carrick at that critical moment settled the fortunes of the day, and the victory lay with the fourth battle. The great army of 100,000 fled before the prudent valour of the Bruce and the determined bravery of the Scots, and Bannockburn was won. As a reward for the undoubted services rendered by MacDonald of the Isles and his Clan at Bannockburn, they always thereafter had allotted to them, at the express desire of the King, the honourable distinction of a place in the right wing of the royal army."*

The MacDonald Clan is endeavouring to infuse a small layer to compliment the integralism of the authentic historic experience that the Bannockburn Team is building.

"AS ONE OF ROBERT BRUCE'S LIEUTENANTS, ANGUS OG TOOK A PROMINENT PART IN THE BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN" {Royal Commission Ancient Historical Monuments Scotland, [RCAHMS, 1977](#) - [1]}.

This question is the crux of the submission to the EET committee :- How is this authoritative 1977 Royal Commission statement of fact going to be interpreted in the new Bannockburn centre and on the day of the re-enactment, 2014 please? It is realised that there are a few eligible for a "prominent part".

Please see the [website page](#) on this aspect which shows how Clan Donald views the 1977 RCAHMS statement and its broader historical significance. {The website has a broader purpose:- Medieval Iona Abbey and Cathedral are the Clan Donald's legacy ; re Historic Scotland's current re-interpretation process.}

The "[Call to Arms](#)" by the [Bannockburn Team](#) is also an opportunity to check and allay anyone's worry that the academically sound Clan Donald "prominent part" somehow doesn't end up as a "trivial part" [vagaries of an arduous, elaborate committee process?]

Can I also make just one other special reference:- to the St Oran's Chapel graveslab, No. 150 at Iona Abbey. There is a [35 slide PowerPoint presentation](#) which clearly provides the evidence and analysis that it is definitely the monument and epitaph of the MacDonald Chief, Lord Angus Og, son of Angus Mor, son of Donald {more succinctly and more thoroughly than my May 2011 submission to Historic Scotland. I have not been advised of any decision, outcome}.

Besides the primary objective of striving for a correct, proven attribution of an important inscribed monument, there is the distinct probability of an opportunity arising from that submission to provide a timely outcome of some significance to the country's 2014 Bannockburn + 'Independence' events.

This is the appropriate time, the right occasion to remedy this incorrect attribution and the right opportunity to modestly celebrate it being returned to The Bruce's close friend and saviour, a "Bannockburn and independence hero", sometime during 2014. Not wait for a relatively inconspicuous 2018 {his death anniversary}. At least 55 million people world wide claim Scots descent, the largest clan being MacDhomhnaills, and the 2014 Homecoming-Independence celebrations will be an international magnet - "Scotland welcomes the world".

The MacDonald Clan has answered the "Call to Arms" in more respects than one in the context of the Battle of Bannockburn. It's a seven century old commitment! We look forward to your response. Thank you all.....

"My hope is constant in thee"

Yours sincerely,

Ian Macdonnell.

[1] DR'S STEER, KA & BANNERMAN, JWM; Published 1977. APPENDIX II, The Lordship of the Isles : [Historical Background: p.203](#). "Late Medieval Monumental Sculpture in the West Highlands" - ROYAL COMMISSION, ETC.

. REFS :-

- "I think you have done the most magnificent job, and you are to be congratulated." The Right Honourable Godfrey James Macdonald of Macdonald.
- "I have read your most impressive paper and you certainly have my full support." Sir Ian Godfrey Bosville Macdonald of Sleat, Bart..
- "There is some good stuff in here"; " interesting things to say about the grave monuments in St Oran's Chapel." [At Iona conference] Dr David Caldwell, Archaeologist, former Keeper of Scotland & Europe in the National Museums of Scotland; Curatorial Advisor to the Museum of Islay.
- "I appreciate your motives and applaud them." Prof. Hugh Cheape, Uni. Of Highlands & Islands; former Principal Curator National Museums Scotland.

**ANGUS, SON OF : LORD ANGUS, (THE) "MAC DOMNAILL", OF ISLAY
"PLAYED A PROMINENT PART IN THE BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN" –RCAHMS**



"The noble and renowned high chief of the Innsigall"

LEFT: ANGUS OG (2), CENTRE, WITH EDWARD BRUCE (1), BROTHER OF KING ROBERT, AND SIR FERGUS OF ARDROSSAN (3). THEY ARE ON THE ANTRIM COAST, IRELAND IN 1315 TO "EXPEL THE GALLS (NORMANS) FROM IRELAND" AND CREATE "NOSTRA NATIO" – OUR PAN-GAELIC NATION. THEY FORESAW "A **GRAND GAELIC ALLIANCE AGAINST ENGLAND**".

1306 : ANGUS OG SAVED ROBERT. They, including Alexander Og, k.1299, were firm west coast allies; the "Turnberry band" (1286).

1314 : "SYR ANGUS OF ILE" IS A BANNOCKBURN champion. He was at the head of 5000 isles men with KING ROBERT'S 4TH BRIGADE (by Barbour).
"My hope is constant in thee".

1318 : KILLED IN IRELAND IN THE INDEPENDENCE CAUSE. EDWARD BRUCE, ALONG WITH ANGUS OG, *Mac Domnail tigearna Airir Gaoidel*, HIS SON ALEXANDER AND *Mac Ruaidhri, Ri Innse Gall*, WERE KILLED IN DUNDALK. (IRISH ANNALS 14 Oct 1318.)

Painting © Osprey Publishing by Seán Ó Brógáin for "GALLOGLASS 1250-1600"; author, Fergus Cannan; 2010

- **ANGUS OG MACDONALD, A CLOSE FRIEND AND WEST COAST ALLY OF ROBERT AND EDWARD BRUCE, IS A NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE HERO OF SCOTLAND. HE RESCUED AND PROTECTED THE BRUCE – DIED WITH EDWARD.**

- **ANGUS OG PLAYED A "PROMINENT PART" AT THE BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN. DENIAL OF HIS BURIAL MONUMENT AND EPITAPH FOR ETERNITY IS A SIGNIFICANT NATIONAL SHAME.**