



CLAN DONALD & IONA ABBEY 1200 - 1500

THE EARLY CLAN DONALD AND THEIR IMMEDIATE ANTECEDENT *REGINALD mac SOMERLED* WERE THE UNRIVALLED ENDOWERS, BUILDERS, PATRONS, PROTECTORS AND GENEROUS BENEFACTORS OF IONA'S ABBEY, CATHEDRAL, NUNNERY AND MONUMENTAL SCULPTURE, 1205 - 1503.

THE KINGS AND LORDS OF THE WESTERN PARTS OF SCOTLAND & ISLES

- 1156 - 1164 : **SOMERLED**
KING OF THE ISLES
- EXPELLED THE VIKINGS AND WON BACK THE ISLES. TRIED TO RESTORE COLUMBAN PRIMACY FOR IONA. BUILT THE CURRENT ST ORAN'S CHAPEL AND IS BURIED THERE.
"WOUNDED BY THE SPEAR, SLAIN BY THE SWORD, SOMERLED DIED."
- 1205 - 1207 : **REGINALD**
- ABBEY FOUNDER, FIRST ENDOWER OF BENEDICTINE ABBEY AND NUNNERY. BUILT THE MICHAEL CHAPEL. NOMINATED HIS SISTER BETHAG AS NUNNERY'S FIRST Prioress.
"THE MOST DISTINGUISHED OF THE GAILL OR GAEL FOR PROSPERITY AND GENEROSITY.."
- 1207 - 1247 : **DONALD I**
- *"OF THE STATELY GAZE."* CLAN DONALD'S FOUNDER. HE BUILT THE ABBEY CHURCH. IONA IS CLAN DONALD'S ANCIENT ECCLESIASTICAL CAPITAL.
- 1247 - 1292 : **ANGUS MOR**
- COMPLETED THE CHURCH, CLAUSTRAL BUILDINGS AND THE NUNNERY.
"FROM YOU, COLUM CILLE CAME OVER THRICE TO HELP US - O SCION OF TARA."

ENDOWMENT IS NOT A ONCE ONLY EVENT AND IT'S CONDITIONAL *"Remained generous benefactors to the abbey throughout."*

IT'S A CONTINUING PROCESS BY THE FOUNDER'S PATRILINEAL SUCCESSORS *"Unrivalled among the barons of Scotland as monastic patrons."*

- 1292 - 1299 : **ALEXANDAIR O G**
- *"BEST MAN OF HIS TRIBE."* KILLED IN IRELAND FIGHTING MACDOUGALLS. UNDEPOSED.
- 1299 - 1318 : **ANGUS O G**
- *"MY HOPE IS CONSTANT IN THEE."* VITAL ROLE WITH ROBERT BRUCE, BANNOCKBURN, 1314.
- 1318 - 1387 : **GOOD JOHN OF ISLAY**
- *"DOMINUS INSULARUM."* INITIAL IMPETUS FOR IONA SCHOOL OF STONE CARVING.
- 1387 - 1421 : **DONALD OF HARLAW**
- *"SONS OF CONN REMEMBER."* CRUSHED MACKINNON EXPLOITATION. LAST BURIED IONA.
- 1421 - 1449 : **ALEXANDER**
- *"A GRAND MAN, CALLED MACDONALD."* BURIED CHANONRY OF ROSS, INVERNESS.
- 1449 - 1503 : **JOHN II**
- *"THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE GAEL TO CLAN COLLA, IT IS RIGHT TO PROCLAIM IT."* HE FUNDED & BUILT THE CATHEDRAL OF ISLES, IONA. LAST MACDONALD LORD OF ISLES.

IN THE 15TH CENTURY THERE WERE TWO MACDONALD ABBOTS OF IONA AND TWO MACDONALD BISHOPS OF THE ISLES . DONALD OF HARLAW GIFTED IONA ABBEY (ABBOT, JOHN MACALAXANDAIR) WITH THE GOLD AND SILVER RELIQUARY *"HAND OF COLUMBA."*

The dominion of the Royal family of MacDonald was evident in their thirty castles throughout the Kingdom of the Isles.