

THE CLANN DOMNAILL
RECOGNISED AS SUCH FROM MID TO LATE 13th CENTURY.

(This is not necessarily the earliest recognition, just the earliest known records of such.)

Aonghas Mór (1247-92 as Chief) has been called "*the first MacDonald*" by W. Sellar, "Hebridean Sea-Kings", p. 207.

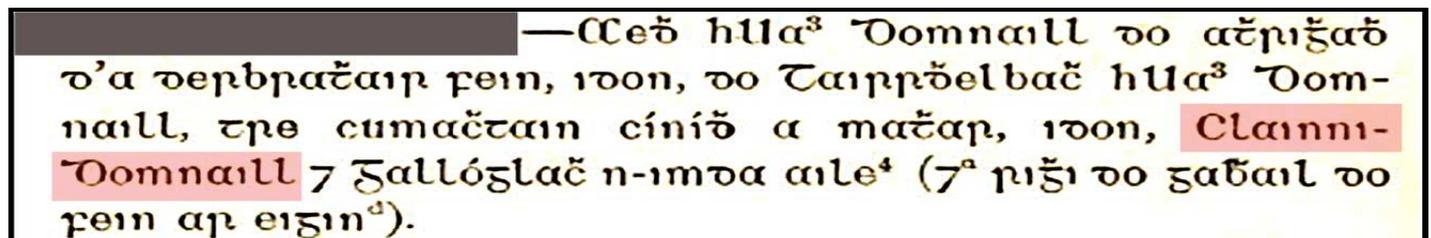
Annals of Four Masters (AFM) 1264 (10)

“Airdepscop Arda Macha Maol Pattraicc Ó Scannail do thabairt na m-Brathar Minur go h-Ard Macha, & as é **Mac Domhnaill** Gallócclach (dho reir gnatcuimne) do thionnsgain in mainistir-sin do thógbhail ó thosach.”

“The Archbishop of Armagh, Maelpatrick O'Scannal, brought the Friars Minor to Armagh; and (according to tradition), it was **Mac Donnell** Galloglaigh that commenced the erection of the monastery.”

Annals of Ulster 1286 (5)

“Aedh h-Ua Domnaill do athrighadh d'a derbrathair fein, idon, do Tairrdhelbach h-Ua Domnaill, tre cumachtain cínídh a mathar, idon, **Clainni Domnaill** & Gallóglaach n-imda aile (& ríghí do gabhail do fein ar eigin.” (p.372, VOL II; B. Mac Carthy. 1893)



Because the Annals of Ulster copied the original sources verbatim, the annals are useful not just for historians, but also for linguists studying the evolution of the Irish language. The Annals of Ulster and the Annals of Tigernach are generally considered to be the most reliable and representative of the original material.

1286.5 : “Aedh Ua Domnaill (O'Donnell) was deposed by his own brother, namely, by Toirdhelbach Ua Domnaill, through the power of the tribe of his mother, namely, the **Clann Domnaill** and many other Gallowlasses (and he took the kingship to himself by force)”.

This Toirdhelbach O'Donnell's mother was the “daughter of *The MacDomnaill of the Isles*”, ie, Angus Mor. She was the second wife of Chief Donal Og O'Donnell and her dowry included Clan Domnaill galloglaigh (c.1265 – and in passing, note AFM 1264 above.) D. Schlegel says that : the foster-father of this Donal Og O'Donnell earlier in the 1240's was his grandfather, the eponymous Donald, “*Donnell mac Raghnaill mic Somhairle*” but S. Duffy says it was the *mic Suibhne* (Mac Sweeny) and he provides evidence in a contemporary poem. However, Duffy also adds that there was indeed an on-going relationship, a “family alliance”, between the O'Donnells and the *Mac Somurli* sept of *Donnell mac Raghnaill*.

AFM 1299 (3)

“**Alexandair Macc Domhnaill**, aoin-fhear ba ferr enech, & enghamh da raibhe dia chinedh i n-Erinn & i n-Albain do marbhadh la h-Alexandair Mac Dubhgaill, & ár dírimhe dia muintir amaille ris”.

“**Alexander Macdonnell**, [son of Angus Mor] the best man of his tribe in Ireland and Scotland for hospitality and prowess, was slain by Alexander Mac Dowell, together with a countless number of his people who were slaughtered”.

Its accepted by all that Reginald and Donald are referred to as “Clan Somairle”. Equally therefore, there is no reason to deny that Angus Mor and Alexandair Og are “Clan Donald”!