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## Meaning of Scottish Names

Expert Shows Derivation of Familiar Ones—Interesting Story of Gaelic Nomenclature—Many Names Shrouded in Obscurity

The study of nomenclature is an interesting one, and, one, unfortunately, that seems to have a peculiar attraction for individuals who attempt to explain the significance of names without an adequate or, in fact, any knowledge of the language which alone makes the name explicable. The name "Campbell," for instance, has been a debatable subject for a long time, but to one having even a rudimentary knowledge of Gaelic, its derivation is plain. "Cam," Gaelic, means bend, curve, crooked; and "Beul," mouth, hence Campbell means curved or crooked mouth. The Duke of Argyll, grandfather of the present duke, who knew Gaelic well and ought to be an authority, stated that Campbell meant curved mouth. Cameron, similarly, meant curved nose, possibly first applied to one who had a distinctively Roman nose. The surname Bain means white or fair—"Bar," the top, uppermost part of anything—Begg, Gaelic, "Beag," little, short, diminutive—Blair, Gaelic, "Blac," plain, battlefield mark, or spot, e.g., "Tha blar n' h' ao dan"—She has a spot on her face. Donald is compounded from "Donn," brown and "suil" eye—Dugall from "Dubh," black, dark and "suil." Such surnames as Dunn, Donne, etc., are doubtless derivations from the Gaelic "Dunn," as are Dow, Duff, from "Dubh," pronounced "du." Duncan, the brown-haired, is derived from "Donn" and "Cann," head—Darroch from "darach," oak tree—Douglas, dark gray, doubtless first applied to a river; Epsie, bishop; Gillespie, servant of the bishop; Gilchrist, servant of Christ; Glass comes from Gaelic "glas," gray; MacIntyre is derived from "Mac," son, and "an t-air," the carpenter; MacTaggart means son of the priest (sagart); MacNab, son of the abbe; MacVicar, son of the vicar; MacKinlay, son of gray John, "leath," being also Gaelic for gray; Ogilvie, the yellow-haired youth; MacKay, son of the mist, Gaelic for mist, "coe"; Moore, More—great, big; Gilmore, big youth; MacColl, son of the doctor; Leitch or MacLeitch, son of the physician; Ross, derived from a Gaelic word signifying warning, premonition; Skene, a knife; Ogg, young,

MacAulay, MacAnlay—This name is frequently Englished into Livingstone, for a very fanciful reason. The first syllable, "au," is assumed to be a transmutation of "beo," living, and the second, lay of "leac," a stone. The father of Dr. Livingstone, was a native of the Island of Ulva, where he was known under his Gaelic name of MacAulay. The name Gun is derived from "guinneach," meaning fierce, impetuous, eager; Roy, Rae, from "ruadh," red, and Logan, probably from Iagan, a "dell," Gow, Gowan, MacGowan, meaning a smith, usually appear in their English forms. Why such a preference should be shown is difficult to determine.

There are other names where the verbal resemblances are so marked that it is almost impossible to conceive of their origin, otherwise, than as such coincidences would indicate. Buchanan seems to resolve itself into "both," a hut, pronounced "bo" and "cainan," language, and pronounced "kanaan." Similarly the Gaelic name Carnegie would seem to be derived from "carn," a heap of stones, or a memorial erected over the grave of a hero, and "eige" a web, pronounced "aga"; which would be the cairn of the web. Knowing nothing of the circumstances producing the singular combinations, I have indicated, we have only the verbal sameness to support this assumed origin of these two names. This, to say the least, is quite



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## Change Islands and Horwoods Contribution to the Cot Fund

(To the Editor) Dear Sir,—I enclose herewith a list of Change Islands and Horwood subscribers to the Hospital Cot Fund, amounting to \$439.16 which has been forwarded to Sir W. H. Horwood. I would thank you to kindly have the list published both in your daily and weekly newspapers, and oblige. Yours very truly, S. ROBERTS.

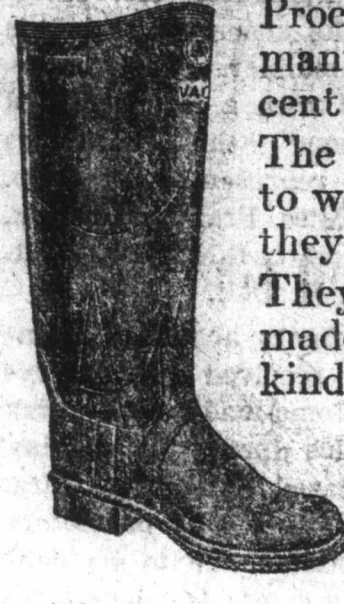
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plausible, if not convincing. We are not on much surer ground with other names, though the evidence favors the correctness of my conjectures. Cathcart, like some of those mentioned, a place name, seems to be derived from "Cath," battle, and "Cart," clear, clean, probably applied to a river near the scene of a battle. The surname, ann, as also the Isle of Mann, doubtless had its origin in the Gaelic word "Manah," pronounced "Man-a," meaning omen, sign, enchantment. Dunbar is composed of a "dun," a mound, a fort, and bar, top, doubtless first applied to a fort on top of a hill. Balfour, also a place name, probably had its origin in "balle," pronounced ba-lia, a town, a village, and "faur," cold. Boyd, this name possibly had its origin from the Gaelic term "boid," a vow, the reason for this designation being applied to persons, others may conjecture equally with myself. The border name, Kerr or Keir, I imagine, originated from a word in the ancient language of Scotland, pronounced almost the same, and signifying dappled, black, sprinkled with gray—Neil Macdonald, in the Scottish American.

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