

## PURPOSE OF OUR ORGANIZATION

- To promote Clan Cunningham descendants, the district families and Clan history.
- To enjoy friendship and camaraderie at various ethnic, Celtic, Scottish and Scots-Irish festivals and games.
- To appreciate our common Scottish heritage via genealogical research of our members.



Finlaystone, the ancestral home of the Clan Cunningham, is located along the Clyde River in Renfrewshire, near Langbank. It came to the Cunninghams in 1405 wh

Sir William Cunningham, Lord of Kilmaurs, married Margaret, the daughter of Sir Robert Danielston of that Ilk, who presented his new son-in law with Finlaystone in Renfrewshire, Glencairn in Dumfriesshire, Danielston and Kilmarnock. William's grandson, Alexander, became the first Earl of Glencairn in 1488.

## SOME VARIOUS SPELLINGS OF CUNNINGHAM:

Cunyingham/e  
Cunninggim  
Cuningham/e  
Cunungsby  
Cunygan  
Cunyngham/e  
Conyngham

MacCunnegan

“K” in place of “C”

## ASSOCIATED FAMILIES

Boyd	Hemphill
Chancellor	Paisley
Coon/Cooney	Powers
Dunlop/Dunlap	Stair/s
Flack	Starrett/Steritt
George	Stirrat
Giffen	Stirie/Stirey
Gunion	Winchester
ackney	Woodburn
Hair/Hare/Hairt	

# Clan Cunningham International



Visit our Website at:  
[www.clancunninghamintl.org](http://www.clancunninghamintl.org)

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Clan Cunningham International is open to all persons bearing the name of Cunningham, or descended from a Cunningham, however spelled, by birth, marriage or adoption.

Membership is open to persons related to or descended from any of the associated families from the District of Cunninghame or Ayrshire. Affiliated (non-voting) memberships are available to anyone interested in Scottish culture and our clan.

Members receive:

- \* a home base at various Highland Games and ethnic festivals where Clan members sponsor a tent.
- \* newsletters (via email unless otherwise requested)
- \* access to genealogical research from our database
- \* information from our official website

Annual Dues are \$25 for regular or affiliate membership.

For membership information or application, write to:

Pat Paisley  
7525 Trier Rd.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46815

Or join from our website using PayPal!!



The District of Cunninghame

In the 12<sup>th</sup> century many landowners assumed the name of their estates as a last name, as did Wernebalde's sons and grandsons. Eventually Cunningham became the name of the northern third of Ayrshire. Up until 1975, the County of Ayrshire had three districts: Cunninghame in the north, Kyle in the center and Carrick in the south.

Clan Cunningham was a Lowland Family, as opposed to a Highland Clan. Historically, few of the worldly Lowlanders communicated with the Highlanders whom they saw as savage, dangerous and ignorant. Like the ancient Romans, Lowlanders mostly ignored their heathen neighbors to the North. Even the Scottish kings found it difficult to control the Highlanders, so they looked to Lowland families like the Cunninghams and the Earls of Glencairn, for support.

## The Name "Cunningham"

The name Cunningham, which according to some may signify "courage in battle," could have come from "Cunedda" who was a king of the "Gododdin," a Celtic branch of Britons known by the Romans as the "Votadini." When the Dalriada Scots emigrated from Ireland in about 500AD, they were confronted by the Strathclyde Britons, the Gododdin Britons and the Picts. The name Cunedda eventually led to the names and words Cyning, Kyng and finally King. The "ham" signifies "hamlet" or small town and was probably added in Norman times.

Still others claim that in the Celtic language Cunedda was rendered as Cinneidigh (meaning ugly or grim-headed). The name gradually became especially associated with the district of Carrick in Ayrshire, Scotland.

The word "cunning" could mean "coney" or rabbit. This theory is popular because the coat of arms of the Earls of Glencairn reflects two coneys as the supporters. It is interesting to note that in a Gaelic on-line dictionary, the word "coney" (or rabbit) translates as "coinean" and the name Cunningham translates as "coineagan." Another translation is "milk pail" from the Gaelic word "cuineag." This theory seems the least plausible.

Despite these different translations, it seems safe to say that the district took its name from the original Cunedda family of Britons. In the twelfth century, Hugh de Moreville granted the manor of Cunninghame and most of the parish of Kilmaurs to his loyal warrior, Wernebalde, progenitor of the Earls of Glencairn. The land which Wernebalde received had been named Cunninghame for several centuries.