

ASSESSING DUNCAN FAMILY STORIES

(Links to the background texts are shown in blue.)

As an experiment I am applying the methods for assessing historical evidence to Mary Ann Dobson's compilation from various sources of family narratives relating to the origins of the Duncan family of Culpeper Co. VA in the Duncan Association Newsletter, Volume 8, Number 1. As Mary Ann commented with understatement 'Many of [these stories] are contradictory'. Neither Mary Ann nor any other Duncan has seen this article in advance.

The focus is on the story of the Rev. William Duncan, born in Perthshire in 1630, who is said to have been killed for refusing to take the 'Jacobite oath' in the reign of Charles II or alternatively in 1692/3. This William is said to have married Sarah or Susan Haldane. Their grandson William emigrated to Virginia around 1690-1694 (or possibly 1720-1722) and left numerous descendants.

It may be useful to begin by reading the opening extract from this compendium, which quotes some letters from Scottish archivists replying to an attempt to find information: follow this link. [\(Reverend William Duncan, outed at the Revolution, died in Scotland in 1692 age about 65, wife Janet Macarthur, had a son William Duncan.](#)

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The earliest identified sources of these stories are compared in the table at the end of this analysis. Links have been added to the original summaries in Duncan Association Newsletter Volume 8/1 for easy reference. The full newsletter is reproduced at the end.

A review of the selected earliest sources

John C. Underwood

John C. Underwood, the first author mentioned, was married to a Duncan, the niece of William E. Duncan of Kentucky. He took up the task of tracing his wife's ancestry and continued over a number of years, modifying his theories along the way.

The first genealogical record by Underwood was published at an unknown date and probably represents the fruits of his first period of research. It seems likely that the published work antedated Underwood's letters on genealogy written in 1903-1906 as in the book Underwood is only able to state that William II Duncan was married to a Highland lassie, whereas in 1903 he was able to name her as Margaret McMurdo. His published list of the children of William and the Highland lassie also does not correspond to lists published later.

Underwood states that William I Duncan was a minister of the gospel and that he was killed for his beliefs, something that was repeated in subsequent Duncan genealogies.

A second version of this work with additions by Mrs Vick (no date) introduces some information on Duncan heraldry and later generations.

Underwood gave a different account of the family tree in letters he wrote between 1903 and 1906. In the first letter he states that he has recently managed to look at the old Bible 'tallying up to William Duncan, first of Culpeper'. Revisions included the name of the wife of William I Duncan: she is now called Susan Haldane and she is said to come from Glasgow. There is no mention of William I's martyrdom.

From this review, it appears that Underwood's earlier published work may have been the source of the frequently repeated statement that William I's wife was called Sarah Haldane and that she belonged to the Gleneagles family.

John C. Underwood seems never to have discovered when William I Duncan died. However, the next author, James Franklin Duncan, gave a date of 1692/3.

James Franklin Duncan¹

James Franklin Duncan wrote his work after his marriage in 1905. At the time of completion he and his wife had three children, so probably he was writing some time after 1910.

John Franklin Duncan obviously had access to some information compiled by Underwood on Duncan heraldry (and the family Bible. He had also consulted reference works such as Burke's Landed Gentry, Fairburn's Armorial and presumably Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticanæ as he is the first to give the Rev. William Duncan's date of death as was 2 January 1692/3. This is around the date of death of the only William Duncan who has been recorded as a minister of religion at this period: William Duncan, Episcopalian minister of New Kilpatrick, Dumbartonshire, who was expelled from his parish after the 1689 revolution.

James Franklin Duncan's account of the first three generations descended from William I Duncan agreed with Underwood's revised version of his family tree. They were both quoting from the family Bible that had belonged to William, the first Duncan to settle in Culpeper Co. John Franklin Duncan said this William had given the Bible to his son James and it was still in the possession of James's descendants in Kentucky.

Interestingly James Franklin Duncan made no reference to the fact that his ancestor was supposed to have been a Covenanting martyr.

Transcript of the entries in William Duncan's Bible

The original Bible apparently has not been seen in recent years. However, a handwritten transcript of the entries in the Bible is found in the back of the Owensboro KY Library copy of 'Gen. and Hist. Notes on Culpeper Co. VA'. In the absence of the original, this is the earliest source for this Duncan family document.

The Bible is said to have been published in 1565. It is reported to have been given to James son of William the first Duncan to settle in Culpeper Co. There seems no reason to doubt its authenticity as a Duncan family document. It also appears that this is the ultimate source of a number of pedigrees, family histories and entries in the IGI over the years, so some consideration of it is in order.

The Bible is a genuinely historic publication, printed in 1565. The first date entered in it is 1613, so the original owner did not use it for recording family information.

The first entry reads *Rev. William Duncan – b Jue 7- 1613 – d , Born Perthshire Scotland, Married in Glasgow – Scotland Aug. 29 – 1636, Sasan [typing mistake?] Haldene, dau. Richard Haldane & Mary Kennett.* Below that is a list of William and Susan's children.

Could the Bible have been a wedding gift to William and Susan, who then began recording their family history? It seems very unlikely that any Scot living in Scotland would think it necessary to record that Perthshire and Glasgow are in Scotland. Also it seems more likely that anyone born in Perthshire would be interested in defining his locality more precisely in terms of his town, parish or farm – the place where he belonged. So we have here a vaguer ancestral memory.

Apart from the reference to William and Susan's marriage in Glasgow, it is not stated where most of the events in Scotland took place. Margaret McMurdo is said to have come from Dumfriesshire. It is not stated where she married or where any of the Duncan children were born in Scotland.

The date on which the family arrived in Culpeper Co. and the date of the marriage of William Duncan and Ruth Rawley are recorded. There is a list of their children's names and birth dates that does not correspond to those that Captain Chew found in local church records 150 years later. There is a substantial gap in the dates for the children of William and Ruth – no births are recorded between 1726 and 1732. Some of Captain Chew's dates fill the gap, some run counter to the Bible information. (There appears to be no independent check of Captain Chew's research.)

The entries apparently further include the date of death of Rawley Duncan and information about his son James. This was possibly entered at a separate stage. The Bible was reportedly given by William Duncan of Culpeper Co. to his youngest son James, who took it to Kentucky.

Given that information covers several generations down to the children of William Duncan and Ruth Rawley but is patchy, in the absence of the original it seems likely that James entered the family information or another family member did this for him, so he could have it on record. There were no doubt other family Bibles or books from which the information was copied.

¹ The work is entitled *Genealogy of James Franklin Duncan of Atlanta, Georgia*. The author's name is not given. For convenience it is assumed here that James Franklin Duncan wrote it himself.

Was the copying accurate? It will have been noticed that, according to the Bible, William Duncan of Culpeper Co. was already advanced in years when he married in 1722 (this date should presumably be adjusted to New Style 11 February 1722/3) if he was born in 1674.

Subsequent histories dealt with the date problem by simply adding 20 years to the Bible dates. Revised dates are already given in brackets in the transcript. There is another possibility, which is that a generation is missing, something that could have happened if James (for instance) was simply making notes from several sources. Nancy Reba Roy quotes Judge Daniel Grimsley of Culpeper Co. VA as saying that the ancestor of the Duncans of Culpeper Co. was John Duncan of Scotland.

A further question is whether the names and dates have been accurately transcribed. Underwood originally thought the first William Duncan's wife was called Sarah, but later quoted Susan from the Bible. Sarah might have arisen from someone's faulty memory – but it might also be that Susan (apparently transcribed as 'Sasan') was a misreading of 17th century handwriting – the original possibly should read 'Sarah'. There is no way of being sure at present. No appropriate Sarah or Susan Haldane has ever been identified in Scottish records.

One surprising name is that of the fourth child of William Duncan II and Margaret McMurdo. This child is listed as 'Townsen', who was twin with Mary. This is a highly unusual name for a child born in 1671 in Scotland. Underwood modified it to the more familiar sounding 'Townsend', which sounds like an English surname. People who have wrestled with 17th century handwriting will be familiar with successions of mysterious vertical strokes that might be any combination of 'm', 'n', 'u', 'i', 'r' or 'a'. It seems more likely that the original was 'Tamasin' and that we have here a record of twin girls.

If this is the case, this is a further indication that these Bible entries were made a long time after the events.

Before John C. Underwood found the Kentucky Bible, he published the names and dates of birth of the children of William Duncan and Sarah Haldane. The names match those in the Kentucky Bible, apart from the fact that the daughter is called Mary. The dates match fairly well too, apart from the fact that they are 20 years later than those in the Kentucky Bible. Had Underwood found one of the original sources of the Kentucky Bible? (The usual naming pattern was that the eldest daughter took the name of her maternal grandmother, which would give some support for the daughter in fact being called Mary.)

There is one striking omission. This series of entries in a family Bible contains no reference to the momentous fact that their ancestor had been martyred for his faith.

Correspondence between the Duncans of Kentucky and the Duncans of Virginia

This late 19th century correspondence is another source that influenced subsequent texts. William E. Duncan of Kentucky was sufficiently interested in his family history to visit Fauquier Co. VA in the late 1860s to seek out Duncans to obtain family information. Another Kentucky Duncan, S.M. Duncan of Nicholasville, wrote to S.H. Duncan in 1891. S. H. Duncan sent him information, including extracts from 'Scotch Presbyterian Church' records.

S.H. Duncan added an additional piece of information. In his reply he quoted a letter he had received in 1872 from Dr George Armistead Duncan of Culpeper Co. VA. This is the source of the epitaph quoted in Mr Regan's correspondence mentioned at the beginning of the Duncan Association newsletter. The epitaph is based on the published epitaph of William Welsh, a Covenanting martyr, but adapted to the circumstances of the Rev. William Duncan.

This appears to be the first written indication that that the Rev. William Duncan had met an untimely end. The William Duncan of this epitaph was not an Episcopalian minister but who one who appeared for *the covenanted work of reformation against perjury and prelacy*. The epitaph stated that he had been expelled from his parish in 1665.

Nancy Reba Roy

Nancy Reba Roy is not an early source but she made an effort to distinguish between the early sources and she published some additional material. In 1959 she wrote a book on the descendants of William Duncan of Culpeper County. She commented on various family stories about origins.

'The descendants of one William Duncan have their own family history from Henry Duncan, second son of William Duncan (one of three martyred brothers) executed in the reign of King Charles II in 1665.'

She added that, according to Judge John C. Underwood who married a descendant of Charles Duncan and Elizabeth Dillard, William Duncan was a descendant of Rev. Wm Duncan born in Perthshire in 1630, who was outed by the Revolution of 1688. She then quoted the text from the 1871 edition of *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae* relating to the Rev. William Duncan, minister of New Kilpatrick.

She also mentioned the traditions of Jessamine Co. KY Duncans from records of Dr George A. Duncan and Samuel McAfee Duncan, which give their ancestor as being born on 7 Jan. 1613 (later changed to 1630).

Around 1964 she published another pamphlet entitled 'Henry Coleman Duncan Family – descendants of Peter Duncan of Westmoreland Co. VA, not descendants of Wm the Martyr that we can prove'.

This pamphlet set out the genealogy of Henry Duncan the son of Sanford Duncan and Nancy Hammond, beginning with William Duncan of Scotland, one of the three martyred brothers, who was born in 1630 and was executed during the reign of King Charles II in the year 1665. He had four sons William, Henry, George and Charles, who emigrated to America in 1678 and settled in Westmoreland Co. VA. 'From these four sons a large family originated which has spread throughout the entire United States.'

One source of this pamphlet was a narrative by H.S. Duncan and Nelson and James Duncan from a history written by Sanford Duncan of Louisville, Kentucky in the year 1852. H.S. Duncan had concluded his work on December 25, 1871. The Sanford Duncan / H.S. Duncan text thus antedates the others and apparently is based on the traditions of one family.

What can be concluded from these narratives?

The attempts of present-day Duncans to unravel the relationships between Duncan families in the United States had their equivalent among the 19th century Duncans. They knew that the Duncan name was widespread. They did not always know which Duncan families were related and where different branches of their families had moved as the United States opened up.

Several families, several stories

Underwood's first attempt at drawing up a family tree reveals that 19th century researchers sometimes jumped to conclusions about which Duncans in Virginia were related. He named Robert and Charles Duncan as the brothers of William III Duncan. It appears there is no foundation for this. In fact, according to Nancy Reba Roy, it is not even proven that Underwood's wife was a descendant of William Duncan of Culpeper Co. It did not help that many early immigrants had the same forenames.

Consequently, while early researchers consulted local archives, reference works and books on heraldry, they also consulted people with local historical knowledge and may well have picked up threads from several family histories.

Martyrdom

There was a family story of martyrdom among the Duncans. It was recorded in 1852 in the family of Sanford Duncan of Louisville KY, whose ancestors had settled in Westmoreland County, VA. Their ancestor, said to have been William Duncan born in 1630, had been killed in 1665, one of three martyred brothers. There was in fact a rising by Covenanters in 1666, so the story has internal veracity.

The Kentucky Bible, which was written up retrospectively but probably before the end of the 18th century, makes no mention of the momentous fact that an ancestor had been martyred for his faith. James Franklin Duncan, who used the Bible as a source, seems to have been completely oblivious to the martyrdom story. The suspicion arises that by 1872 some Duncans in Culpeper Co. VA had come to associate the story of a martyred William Duncan with their own family. The facts were then further embellished with the details of the death of another Covenanting martyr, William Welsh.

Underwood picked up the martyrdom story, probably through reports from Virginia, and included it in his first published Duncan history. It seems to be on this basis that he stated that William had been born in 1630.

The William Duncan epitaph quoted in 1872 that was based on the epitaph for William Welsh states that Duncan was ousted from his parish in 1665, which seems a clear pointer to the Westmoreland Co. story, where William Duncan is said to have died in 1665.

Beheading

The story that William Duncan was beheaded originates with the William Welsh epitaph. William Welsh's epitaph records the fact that his head and hand had been set up over the gate of Dumfries after his execution in Edinburgh. (It should be added that beheading was the finishing touch in the full hideous penalty for treason. Covenanters who were hunted down by troopers were generally shot.)

Dates

Underwood was the first to publish that the Rev. William Duncan had been born in 1630. He wrote this before he had access to the Kentucky Bible. He also published dates for his five children, probably using a family source. The dates corresponded fairly well to the Bible dates, except they were 20 years later. The suspicion arises that Underwood decided to make the children's birth dates accord with a birth date for their father in 1630.

There is of course the alternative possibility that it was the person who wrote up the Kentucky Bible who systematically changed dates. The argument against this is that the Kentucky Bible scribe had no obvious reason to modify dates whereas Underwood and successive writers were trying to make the dates fit a year of birth for William I Duncan of 1630. It is true that later family members may have tried to adjust some Bible dates for greater chronological consistency.

Minister of religion

The belief that William I Duncan was a minister of religion appears to be well established. The difficulty is that no documentary proof has ever been found. James Franklin Duncan almost certainly used the *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticanæ* as a source, as he gave William Duncan's date of death as 1692/3. This detail was incorporated into later genealogies. This later led archive staff in Scotland to bring forward the name of the Episcopalian minister of New Kilpatrick, noting the dates were very close. It was not surprising because both parties were unwittingly quoting the same text.

It appears the Kentucky Bible stated that William Duncan was a minister of religion; it was not just a belief that arose from the martyrdom story. Possibly the earlier birth date and an open death date might give some clue as to whether William Duncan's career can be detected in Scottish records.

Stories from two different families

Because of confusion about which Duncan families were related, it appears that the histories of two ancestral William Duncans have been confused. It should be noted, further to the thesis that the Culpeper Co. Duncans borrowed the martyrdom story from the Westmoreland Co. Duncans, the Westmoreland Co. Duncans have borrowed family details from the Culpeper Co. Duncans ([Duncan KY Families" by Mary Green Baird, 1868-1956](#)).

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These are not the conclusions that I was anticipating. I began by thinking that it was a question of stripping away all the accretions around William Duncan, the ancestor of William Duncan of Culpeper Co., who died for his faith, perhaps as a Covenanting preacher. I thought there was an intriguing Covenanting story that had somehow got mixed up with the details of an Episcopalian minister. In fact it appears that there is no evidence that the ancestor of the Culpeper Co. Duncans was involved with Covenanters or was a martyr. It remains to be seen whether he was a minister.

There may well be other texts not analysed here that may have a bearing on some of the present conclusions. This was purely an exercise to assess a set of printed sources, which has produced a somewhat surprising result.

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The Killing Times

There are various monuments to the Covenanters that can still be visited. A Southern Upland Way leaflet provides a useful summary of information about the Killing Times and associated sites in Scotland.
<http://www.southernuplandway.gov.uk/cms/media/thekillingtimes.pdf>

Genealogical record of the Duncan family of Virginia and Kentucky by John C. Underwood [nd] GENEALOGICAL RECORD OF THE DUNCAN FAMILY of Virginia and Kentucky	Thomas Duncan and His Six Sons by Kate D. Smith [nd] This contains extracts from letters of Gen. John C. Underwood 1903-1906 Extracts from Letters of Gen. John C. Underwood, President, Confederate Memorial Association	Genealogy of James Franklin Duncan of Atlanta, Georgia (b 1875, m 1905) Genealogy of James Franklin Duncan of Atlanta, Georgia	Notes in the back of Gen. & Hist. Notes on Culpeper Co. VA by Raleigh Traverse Green, published 1900, in Owensboro KY Library. From Bible of Rev. William Duncan, published 1565 Gen. & Hist. Notes on Culpeper Co. VA	Letter from S.H. Duncan to S. M. Duncan of Nicholasville KY, 1891, which also quotes a letter from Dr George Armistead Duncan, Culpeper Co. VA, 1872 to S.H. Duncan of Culpeper Co. VA Family Record of William Duncan, a Scotch immigrant who settled in the Colony of Virginia in 1722	Descendants of William Duncan the Elder of Culpeper Co. VA by Nancy Reba Roy, 1959 Descendants of William Duncan the Elder of Culpeper Co. VA	Henry Coleman Duncan Family – descendants of Peter Duncan of Westmoreland Co. VA, not descendants of Wm the Martyr that we can prove, [1964] THE HENRY – COLEMAN DUNCAN FAMILY – DESCENDANTS OF PETER DUNCAN OF WESTMORELAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA
William I Duncan b 1630 1/7 in Perthshire. Minister of the gospel, lost life by refusing to take Jacobite oath in reign Charles II. m 1657 Sarah Haldane, born Perthshire, of Gleneagles family.	Rev. William Duncan b 1630 Perthshire, m 1657-1658 Susan Haldane of Glasgow	Rev. William Duncan b 1630 1/7 d 1692/3 1/2 near Glasgow; m 1657 8/29 Susan or Sarah Haldane of the Gleneagles family	Rev. William Duncan b June 7 1613 d _____. Born Perthshire, married Glasgow Aug. 29 1636 Susan da Richard Haldane & Mary Kennett		The descendants of one William Duncan have their own family history from Henry Duncan, 2d son of Wm Duncan (one of three martyred brothers) executed in the reign of King Charles II in 1665.	Genealogy of Henry Duncan the son of Sanford Duncan and Nancy Hammond, beginning with William Duncan of Scotland, one of the three martyred brothers, who was born in 1630 and was executed during the reign of King Charles II in the year 1665.
William II b 1659 10/1, Perthshire Charles b 1662 9/6 Henry b 1664 1/14 Thomas b 1665 1/28 Mary b 1667 2/1		William II Duncan b 1659 10/1	William II b Oct. 1 1639 Charles Sept. 6 1642 Henry Jan 11. 1644 Thomas Jan. 28 1645 Susan twin to Thomas		According to Judge John C. Underwood who m a desc. of Charles D and Elizabeth Dillard, William D was a desc. of Rev. Wm Duncan b in Perthshire in 1630, who was outed by the Revolution of 1688. Then quotes from Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticanae, 1871 edition.	He had four sons William, Henry, George and Charles, who emigrated to America in 1678 and settled in Westmoreland Co. VA.
William II m 1689 a 'Highland lassie'	William Duncan b 1659-60 m 1681 Margaret McMurdo	William II Duncan and four others d c 1720 VA m Margaret McMurdo	William II m Margaret McMurdo of Dumfriesshire 21 Jun. 1662		Traditions of Jessamine Co. KY Duncans from records of Dr George A. Duncan and Samuel McAfee Duncan give their ancestor as being born on 7 Jan. 1613 (later changed to 1630) .	
William III b 1690 4/19 m Ruth Rawley of Culpeper, VA Robert b 1692-6, Scotland m Ann Gallop Charles b 1692-6, Scotland, probably moved to PA Two daughters	Henry Duncan b 1683 Charles Duncan b 1684 Thomas Duncan b 1686 Margaret Duncan b 1688 Townsend and Mary Duncan b 1690 William Duncan b 1692	William III Duncan b 1692 4/19, fifth son and seventh child	Henry b July 26 1665 (85) Charles b Aug. 6 1667 (87) Thomas b June 11 1669 (89) Townsen Dec. 1671 (91) Mary twin Wm III Apr. 19 1674 (94) Elizabeth Barbara Susan			

<p>Author now thinks that Charles Duncan b 1662 must have been the father of William III as William III named his eldest son Charles.</p>						
<p>Family settled in Virginia in 1690-4.</p> <p>Settled 1722 in location of later Culpeper Co.</p> <p>Information from KY printed biography of Duncan family and corroborated by record history from Jos. Dillard Duncan of Warren Co. KY and Hon. Henry T. Duncan of Lexington, KY.</p>	<p>William E. Duncan, wife's uncle visited VA just after the Civil War and gave me much information. He said Charles brother of William of Culpeper settled in SC, Thomas and another brother in PA.</p> <p>Years ago I corresponded with Samuel Duncan of KY who wrote he owned a Bible containing names, dates, etc. of the Duncans who came to VA in 1722.</p>	<p>Much of the earlier part of the pedigree has been taken from MS entries in the Bible of William III Duncan, which he gave to his son James; it is still in the possession of his heirs in KY.</p> <p>Quotes Underwood on visit to VA by wife's uncle 1866-70.</p>		<p>I employed last week Captain Thomas Chew to copy the colonial records preserved of William Duncan who settled in VA in 1722 ...</p> <p>The following epitaph is yet preserved among his Virginia descendants: <i>Here lieth Reverend William Duncan, who for his adhering to the word of God and appearing for Christ's kingly government in his house and the covenanted work of reformation against perjury and prelacy ejected January the 2nd 1665 ...</i></p>		<p>Having now written all the information that can possibly be obtained of the more ancient of the Duncan family ...</p> <p>Written by H. S. Duncan and Nelson and James Duncan from a history written by Sanford Duncan of Louisville, KY in the year 1852. 1871 – by H.S. Duncan and the information given him by his mother and brothers ... December 25, 1871.</p>

Duncan Association Newsletter

Volume 8, Number 1 January 2000

Brief Duncan Data

From Files of Mary Ann Dobson

MAD: The following are parts of some of the many references to a William Duncan whose descendants are said to have settled in the United States in the 1700's. Many of them are contradictory.

Reverend William Duncan, outed at the Revolution, died in Scotland in 1692 age about 65, wife Janet Macarthur, had a son William Duncan.

Letters given by John F. Regan (an attorney) to Lois Laird ca 12/1996 who sent them to Dorothy Franks 1/10/97 (copy from Dorothy Franks 1/15/97)

Letter 1 December 1996 from Helen A. McArthur, Service Support Librarian; Dumfries & Galloway Council, Serving South West Scotland, Community Resources, Alstair R. Johnston BA ALA FSA [Scot], Libraries and Infomation Manager, Ewert Library, Catherine Street, Dumfries DG1 1JB.

Mr. John F. Regan, Decatur, IL, USA. Dear Mr. Regan

I reply to you letter dated 23 November 1996.

It might be useful to give an outline of the ecclesiastical situation in Scotland during the seventeenth century. In the sixteenth century, the time of John Knox, Scotland had established a Presbyterian church, with every parish semi-autonomous, but attached to a local Presbytery which sent members to a general assembly in Edinburgh once a year. When King Charles II was restored to the monarchy in 1660 he forcibly imposed an Episcopalian system on the country, with bishops and archbishops over the local ministers. This was very deeply resented and the people of the country got together and signed two Covenants – the National Covenant and the Solemn League and Covenant, in which they set down their beliefs and vowed to adhere to them. They became known as the Covenanters, and the King, who believed that he ruled by divine right, classed them as traitors and instituted an intense persecution to force them to conform.

The epitaph which you quote is that of one such Covenanter, William Welch. His tombstone is in St. Michael's churchyard in Dumfries. He was actually executed in Edinburgh, but his head and right hand were sent home to be nailed up over the gate of the old bridge, as an example to others. Beside him in the churchyard is the tombstone of another Covenanter, called Kirko, who was actually shot on the sands of Dumfries, (beside the River Nith) in 1685.

To return to **William Duncan**, I can find no record of him ever having been appointed minister of any church in Perth. The ministers of the Church of Scotland have been thoroughly researched and their details are included in the Fasti Ecclesiastae, which is mentioned in the letter which you enclose. In fact details of only one **William Duncan** who was licensed as a minister in the Church of Scotland in the whole period were found, but his dates are surprisingly close to the ones which you give, and I suspect that he may be the same man, despite the very different details. Please see enclosed photocopy.

Although the details of appointments to parishes in the Fasti are very accurate personal details are often incomplete and things like second marriages and the birth of children may not have been discovered. The parish of New Kilpatrick, to which this **William Duncan** was appointed, is in Dumbartonshire, about forty miles from Perth, but, as you have established that he was a native of that city, he would probably have made extensive visits to his relatives there, as was the custom at that period. John Hardie, who was minister of Perth, died in 1687 and the next minister was not appointed until 1691. This was not uncommon, but it leaves a gap in which a visiting minister would almost certainly have been invited to

preach, at least until 1688.

In 1688 the ecclesiastical picture changed again. William of Orange overthrew James II and became King. He restored the Presbyterian system in 1689 and ministers who held genuine, rather than enforced Episcopalian views were 'outed', that is, deprived of their parishes and forbidden to preach. This seems to have been what happened to **William Duncan**, and it makes it clear that he had absolutely no Covenanting sympathies. It would also offer a good explanation of why his family left Scotland. They would have been generally ostracised and probably had strong objections to being forced to give up their particular religious practices, so they sought the freedom of the New World.

We are returning your dollar bill. The total inclusive charge is £3 sterling, payment of which would be appreciated at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely, /s/ Helen McArthur. H.A. McArthur, Service Support Librarian.

Enclosure: (typed text, printed inscription in all caps, photograph, all on one page) Covenanter's (William Welch's) Tombstone. Location – St. Michael's Churchyard, Dumfries. Description – Sandstone Table stone. Inscription (on table top). HERE LYES WILLIAM / WELSH, PENTLAND / MARTYR, FOR HIS / ADHERING TO THE / WORD OF GOD AND / APPEARING FOR / CHRISTS KINGLY / GOVERNMENT IN HIS / HOUSE AND THE CO / VENANTED WORK / OF REFORMATION / AGAINST PERJURY / AND PRELACIE EXE / CUTE JANR 2 / 1667 REV 12 11. /// STAY, PASSENGER, AND READ, / HERE INTERR'D DOTH LY / A WITNESS GAINST POOR / SCOTLANDS PERJURY, / WHOSE HEAD ONCE FIX'D UP / ON THE BRIDGE PORT STOOD / PROCLAIMING VENGEANCE / FOR HIS GUILTLES BLOOD.

Letter 18 December 1996 from J--- A.C. Duncan, Local Studies Librarian (*MAD: cannot read first name*), Perth & Kinross Council, Leisure & Cultural Services Department, Library & Archives Division, A K Bell Library, 2-8 York Place, Perth PH2 8EP. Tel: (01738) 444949. Fax: (01738) 477010. Contact: Mr. Duncan. Our Ref: JD/JK.

Mr. John F. Regan, Decatur, IL, USA. Dear Mr. Regan,

Thank you for your letter of 22nd November and for the payment of \$2.00. Unfortunately, after an hour's research, we have been unable to make any progress with your enquiry. As Fiona Scharlau suggested, we have checked the "Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae" but could find no mention of a **William Duncan** ever having been a minister of St. John's in Perth. In fact we checked every volume for the whole of Scotland and came up with only one possibly relevant entry (photocopy enclosed). Although he had no obvious connection with this part of Scotland he certainly died in 1692 and had a son **William**. The major drawbacks are firstly that there is no mention of him being executed and secondly, having been "outed at the Revolution", he was clearly an Episcopalian. This is at odds with the **William Duncan** who was martyred in 1692 for his adherence to Presbyterianism, although, having said this, Presbyterianism was the legal form of worship in the Church of Scotland at this time, which suggests that the date of 1692 is wrong.

We have also searched G.T.S. Farquhar's extensive "Episcopal history of Perth, 1689-1894" which again makes no mention of any **William Duncan**.

I would suggest that you try writing to my counterpart at the Ewert Library, Catherine Street, Dumfries, DG1 1JB, who may have information on local martyrs.

I am sorry that we ourselves cannot be of much help. The charge for one hour of staff research time, less your initial payment, comes to £11.00. Would you please make cheques etc. payable to Perth and Kinross Libraries.

Yours sincerely, /s/ Jeeing? A.C. Duncan. Local Studies Librarian.

Enclosure: Book page 356, entitled: New Kilpatrick [Presb. of Dunbarton]. 1666: **WILLIAM DUNCAN**, M.A. (King's College, Aberdeen, 1648); assistant at Auchindoir 21st Oct. 1652; adm. prior to 18th Oct. 1653 to Kildrummy; adm. before 18th July 1666; outed at the Revolution; died in 1692, aged about 65. He marr. Janet Macarthur, and had issue – **William**; probably also **Alexander**, min. of Kilburnie. – ["Reg. Old Dec.", iii.; Rule's "Sec. Vindication"; "Argyll Sas.", ii., 254.]

"Genealogical Record of the Duncan Family" (copy from Dr. Lenox D. Baker 12/1980)
GENEALOGICAL RECORD OF THE **DUNCAN** FAMILY of Virginia and Kentucky

by John C. Underwood. ...

Generation A — House of (1)

Rev. **William Duncan** of Scotland.

William (1) Duncan, born 1630 1/7, in Perthshire, Scotland, was the progenitor of the Duncan family that settled in the colony of Virginia, Am., in 1690-4. He was a minister of the Gospel and lost his life by refusing to take the Jacobite oath, during the reign of Charles II. He married in 1657, in Scotland, Sarah Haldane, born in Perthshire, Scotland, (of the Glen Eagles Haldanes), and by her had five children, four sons and one daughter, to wit:

Issue of Rev. William (1) & Sarah (Haldane) Duncan.

1. **William (2)**, born 1659 10/1, Perthshire, who married and had issue:

2. **Charles**, born 1662 9/6:

3. **Henry**, born 1664 1/14:

4. **Thomas**, born 1665 1/28:

5. **Mary**, born 1667 2/1:

All born in Perthshire, Scotland, and fled to America.

Note: I now think that Charles Duncan, born 1662 8/16 must have been the father of (1) William, (3) William (the first of Culpeper), for he, William (3) named his oldest son and first child Charles and his fourth son William, evidently after himself (according to practice then as to eldest), but I have not the record of this Charles' Family and he may be the one Judge Grimsley had in mind again. Rev. James Duncan names his first son Charles, which bolsters my thought that both his father, William (3) and he also wanted to perpetuate the name of the first Charles.

Generation B — House of (2)

William Duncan of Scotland

William (2) Duncan, born 1659 10/1 in Perthshire, Scotland, married 1689 a "Highland Lassie", but the name of his wife is not known; yet it is of record that he had by her at least five children, certainly three sons and probably two daughters — possibly others. These brothers and sisters immigrated to America and settled 1722 1/23, on the "Northern Neck" of the colony of Virginia, the special location being the later formed County of "Culpeper".

Issue of William (2) Duncan, known to have settled in Virginia.

1. **William (3)**, born 1690 4/19, in Scotland, who married Ruth Rawley of Culpeper, Virginia, and had issue. See his "House";

2. **Robert**, born 1692-6, in Scotland, who married Ann Gallop, and had issue. See his "House";

3. **Charles**, born 1692-6, in Scotland, who married ---- and had issue, of whom but little is known, as the family moved out of Virginia. One statement is that it went to Pennsylvania, and another is that it removed to South Carolina, and the probability is that the first is true;

4&5. Two daughters, about whom nothing is known further than the allegation that they came to America with their said brothers; and it is not certainly known who of the two younger brothers was the elder.

(The foregoing is taken in substance from a Kentucky printed biography of the Duncan family, and is corroborated by record history of the family obtained from Jos. Dillard Duncan, Esq., of Warren Co., Kentucky, and Hon. Henry T. Duncan, of Lexington, Ky.)

THE VIRGINIA BRANCH OF THE DUNCAN FAMILY

Generation C — House of (3)

William Duncan of Culpeper, Virginia

(Bible and Culpeper County Records)

I. **William (3) Duncan**, born 1690 4/19 in Scotland, died 1781 in Culpeper County, Va., aged 91 years.

He married 1719/20 2/11, in Culpeper County.

Ruth Rawley, daughter of Matthew Rawley born in England of Welsh parentage, and by her had seven or eight children, six or seven sons and one daughter, viz:

Issue of William (3) and Ruth (Rawley) Duncan

....

“Duncan Family Record” by Judge Underwood; additions to Generations F and later by Mrs. Vick, from “KY Bible and Family Records” KY DAR, pg. 59-66 (FHC film 854,843 item 4; SLC 6/5/85)

Genealogical Record of the **Duncan** Family of VA & KY.

Arms: A black boar’s head on Metal Shield.

Motto: tein Le Droit. Interp. — Defend the Right.

Generation A. — House of Rev. **William Duncan** of Scotland

William Duncan, b. 1630 1/7, in Perthshire Scotland was the progenitor of the Duncan Family that settled in the Colony of VA, Am. in 1690. He was a minister of the Gospel and lost his life by refusing to take the Jacobite Oath, during the reign of Charles II. He m. in 1657 in Scotland, Sarah Haldane, who was born in Scotland. Their issue:

1. **William** b. 1659, 10/1, who m. and had issue.
2. **Charles**, b. 1662 9/6
3. **Henry** b. 1664 1/4
4. **Thomas** b. 1665 1/28
5. **Mary** b. 1667 2/1

Generation B. — House of **William Duncan** of Scotland

William Duncan b. 1659 10/1 in Scotland, m. 1699 a “Highland Lassie”, but the name of his wife is not known: yet it is of record that he had by her at least five children — possibly others. These brothers and sisters immigrated to America and settled in 1722 1/23 on the “Northern Neck” of the Colony of Virginia, the special location being the later formed county of Culpeper.

William Duncan, known to have settled in VA had issue:

1. **William** b. 1690 4/19 m. Ruth Rawley & had issue.
2. **Robert** b. 1692-6, m. Ann and had issue
3. **Charles** b. 1692-6, m. and had issue of whom little is know, as the family moved out of Va. One statement is that it went to Pennsylvania.
4. Two daughters about who nothing is known further than the allegation that they came to America with their said brothers. It is not certainly known who of the two younger brothers was the elder. (The foregoing is taken from a Ky. printed biography of the Duncan family, and is corroborated by record, history of family, obtained from Jos. Dillard Esq., of Warren Co. Ky and Hon. Henry T. Duncan, Lexington, Ky.)

Generation C. — House of **William Duncan** of Culpeper Co. VA

(Bible and Culpeper Co. Records)

William Duncan, b. 1690 4/19 in Scotland, d. 1781 in Culpeper Co. VA age 91 years. He married 1720 2/11 in Culpeper Co., Ruth Rawley, dau of Matthew Rawley, born in England of Welsh parentage. Their issue:

1. **Charles** b. 1720 m. Ann ----
2. **James** b. 1722 1/11 m. Mary (Peggy) and had issue.
3. **Rawley**, b. 1723, m. Mary ----.
4. **William** b. ---- m. Rosanna Norman and had issue:
 1. **William** m. 1789 Lucy Bywaters
 2. **James** m. 1797 Dorcas Butler
 3. **Frederick** m 1797 Sarah Stallard
 4. **Benjamin** m. 1793 Elizabeth Browning
 5. **John**, died unmarried
 6. **Joseph**, m. Mary, dau of Francis Browning & had issue.
 7. **Annie** m. ---- Roberts
 8. **Rice**, d. in Russell Co. VA.

(the first seven children are mentioned in their father’s will, dated 2/24/1781 and probated 1781 10/15 with James and Joseph as executors; the other “Rice” was the middle name of John who died unmarried, as there was a prominent Rice Family in the same county.)

Rawley Duncan, the third child, was a soldier of the early Indian and Revolutionary Wars. He was severely wounded in battle with Indians at Point Pleasant in 1774; was with Col. George Washington at Braddock’s defeat in 1770; and afterwards in all the attacks made by the Colonial troops against the invasions of VA. by Benedict Arnold in 1781.

“The Duncan Family” by Mrs. J. Wells Vick, pg.6-12 (pg.1-5 on Browning), from “KY Misc. Records” KY DAR Vol. 2?; pg. 203-209 (854,847 item 6; SLC 6/5/85)

The **Duncans** of VA are descended from Rev. **Wm. Duncan I** of Perthshire Scotland and who was born in 1630. He married in 1657 to Sarah Holdane of the Gleneagles family of that name in Perthshire. He was beheaded during the “killing time of Scotland” (1685-1689), because he refused to take the Jacobite Oath. Issue:

William Duncan II b. 1659

Charles Duncan I b. 1660

Henry Duncan b. 1662

Thomas Duncan b. 1664

Mary Duncan born 1666

After the death of their father all of them came to America and settled in the Northern neck of VA.

Charles I, second son of Rev. Wm. & Sarah Haldane Duncan, married ---- had children:

William Duncan III, b. 1690 m. Ruth Raleigh.

Charles Duncan II

two daughters.

William Duncan III, born 1690, son of Charles Duncan, married Ruth Raleigh, Feb. 11, 1723. Lived in Orange Co. Va. which was later Culpeper Co. (formed 1748). Will is dated Feb. 24, 1781, probated Oct. 15, 1788. Issue:

Raleigh Duncan, b. Nov. 23, 1723

William Duncan IV b. Apr. 29, 1726 m. Rosanna Norman

John b. Aug. 23, 1730 m. Ann ----

Joseph b. Dec. 12, 1732 m. Mary Browning

Mary b. “” (Joseph’s twin)

Rice never married

Charles m. Sarah Browning

Nancy

James I b. July 18, 1746, m. Asevith (sic) Browning

Ann b. ---- m. ---- Roberts.

Typed outline, with handwritten note: from Mrs. J. Wells Vick, Russell, KY; from Henry R. and Mary Deaderick Duncan Collection, McClung Historical Collection, Lawson McGhee Library, Knoxville TN; (copies from Mary Sutton 7/17/84)

Duncan

Rev. **William Duncan** of Perthshire, Scotland married in 1657 to Sarah Haldrane; he was beheaded during the “Killing Time in Scotland 1688-1689”, as did many who refused to sign the Jacobite Oath. His children after their father’s death came to America. The children were:

1- **William Duncan II** born Oct. 1, 1659

2- **Charles Duncan I** b. Sept. 6, 1662

3- **Henry Duncan** b. Jan. 11, 1664

4- **Thomas Duncan** b. Jan. 28, 1665

5- **Mary Duncan** b. Feb. 1, 1667.

Charles Duncan I, 2nd son of Rev. **Wm. Duncan** married and had five children:

a- **William Duncan** b. 1690 mar. Ruth Raleigh Feb. 11, 1722 in Culpeper Co. Va.

b- **Robert Duncan**- no other information

c- **Charles Duncan II**

d- a daughter

e- a daughter

William and Ruth Duncan lived in Orange Co. Va. which later became Culpepper. This **Wm.**’s line had been established as furnished supplies in the Rev. War to the Colonial Army. I prepared a DAR paper for

a lady who joined our DAR Chapt. through the line of this **Wm. Duncan** (1690-1788). He left a will in Culpeper co-probated Oct. 13, 1788, the children were

“Thomas Duncan and His Six Sons” by Kate D. Smith (from John A. Duncan 8/22/84; SLC 9/84)
Pg. 148-151: Extracts from Letters of Gen. John C. Underwood, President, Confederate Memorial Association.

“Covington, Ky., August 2, 1903.

I wrote you several days ago and sent the letter through my nephew Colonel William T. Underwood of your city. Since then I’ve gotten possession of the old Bible tallying up to **William Duncan**, first of Culpeper, also the alleged early Duncan pedigree:

I. Rev. **William Duncan**, b. 1630 in Perthshire, Scotland; m. 1657-1658, Susan Haldane of Glasgow, Scotland.

II. **William Duncan**, b. 1659-1660; m. 1681, Margaret McMurdo. Children.

III. **Henry Duncan**, b. 1683. **Charles Duncan**, b. 1684. **Thomas**, b. 1686. **Margaret**, b. 1688.

Townsend and Mary (twins), b. 1690. **William Duncan**, b. 1692.

IV. **William Duncan**, b. 1692; m. Ruth Rawley, daughter of Mathew Rawley of Wales, in Culpeper Co., Va. **William Duncan** came to and settled in the Colony of Virginia, 1722-3, etc.” ...

“Lotos Club, N.Y., 10/7/1903.

Yours of 5th inst. just received. I have discovered the somewhat puzzling date, but by very careful and analytical study I have solved much of it. Yes, there is a deed in the Clerk’s office of Orange County, Va. — the first one in the record book, under date 1741 conveying property to **William Duncan** afterward of Culpeper, but there is much earlier authentic record than that, for Green’s ‘Culpeper County,’ makes mention of **William Duncan** and his two sisters and brothers, arriving in Culpeper Territory, Jan. 27, 1722-3, besides Gresham gives all and much more in his statements and asserts that the Duncans immigrated to America in 1690-4. Am certain that the grand-children including two girls never came to Virginia in a body in 1723 and am absolutely certain that had they arrived at that time they would not have found their way so far inland from the Chesapeake Bay so quickly.

Other Duncan families of the same general locality indicate there were grand-children of the Rev.

William Duncan who settled in Virginia, sired by others of his sons than the oldest son **William**. There were good reasons why the sons of Rev. **William Duncan** should emigrate from Scotland in a body — viz.: to be rid of possible persecution, etc.

By putting together what Gresham, Dr. Slaughter, ‘Green Family Records’ and tradition and Culpeper County records, I am sure it was the four sons of Rev. **William Duncan** who immigrated to America about 1690-4 according to Gresham and common sense. That they settled variously in the Northern Neck of Virginia and that the children of **William** — the eldest son of Rev. **William Duncan** and one of the emigrants moved from some other portion of the Northern Neck to Culpeper territory in 1722-3 as recorded and that **William Duncan**, the younger of said grand-children there married a fortnight after arriving in 1722-3 Ruth Rawley, daughter of Mathew Rawley a well-to-do Welshman already settled in said section. **William E. Duncan** — uncle of my wife — visited Virginia just after the Civil War and he gave me much information about the family and said that **Charles Duncan** (brother of **William** of Culpeper) located in South Carolina. That **Thomas** (your ancestor) and another brother located in Pennsylvania, all of which I have since verified.”

“The Lotos Club, N.Y., Feb. 13, 1906.

I will send all the papers as soon as I can get to them. After my wife died I packed all my genealogical papers and they are stored away — yours among them. I have long since secured the authentic ancestry of my wife. **THOMAS DUNCAN** was one of the brothers who came from England with **William** of Culpeper et. al. and my researches caused me to write you that he removed to Pennsylvania. This is a fact whether your **Thomas** or not, and it is presumable he was.

The Duncans landed at Brockheaven — the earliest port of the Potomac River (now Alexandria), thence went to Culpeper on the Northern Neck of Virginia, where **William** married and permanently settled and two of the brothers removed to other States, **Thomas** to Pennsylvania and **Charles** to South Carolina, I think.

John C. Underwood.”

“Years ago I corresponded with **Samuel Duncan** of Kentucky who wrote he owned a Bible containing names, dates, etc., of the Duncans who came to Virginia in 1722. A **Thomas Duncan** was of this colony and many Duncan descendants claim he went from Virginia to Pennsylvania and was **Thomas Duncan** who died in Cumberland County in 1776. My research has revealed no proof of this nor have I seen proof from any source. **Thomas** and **William Duncan** were in Maryland in 1700 and **William, Thomas** and **John Duncan** are found in early Maryland.”

(See letter of Dr. George G. Smith. — K.D.S.)

“SC Family & Bible Records; Genealogical Records, 1963” by Richard Winn Chapter SC DAR; compiled by Nellie Chappell Maybin; Chapter genealogist Miss Lola Wilson, 1109 Ella St., Anderson, S.C.; typed pg. 2-14 (FHC film 855,222 item 1; SLC 6/6/85 & 10/90)

Origin of the **Duncan** Family of Scotland and America

It has been asserted that the Duncans of Scotland descended from the ancestral “house” of **King Duncan** (called the “Meek”), who upon the death of his grandfather without male issue succeeded to the throne, and reigned 1034-1040. He was the son of “Bathoc”, oldest daughter of King Malcolm II, by Crynin, a lay or secular abbot of Dunceld and thane of the Isles and western parts of Scotland — a wild and rugged country. Macbeth was the son of King Malcolm’s second and youngest daughter “Dowoda”, by Sinel, thane of Glamis and Mormser of Moray; and his wife was “Gruoch”, daughter of Boete, son of King Kenneth II, grandsire of Malcolm II — so the Macbeths claimed greater lineage and better title to the throne.

Mr. **William E. Duncan** of Warren Co., KY, the uncle of my wife, visited his relations in the counties of Culpeper and Fauquier, VA, after the close of the Civil war between the States (between 1866-70); and upon his return to KY, gave me much information relative to the Duncan family, which I afterwards verified and completed by extensive researches. Speaking about the Duncan coat of arms he said that he knew very little about such things, but stated that from what he learned he thought it was a boar’s head (black) and a new moon with an eagle’s head above them. I took down the notes and at the time thought he was fooling me, but he said not; and I afterwards discovered that he was practically correct, and have frequently laughed at his heraldic description — very quaint but perfectly true. I have already become quite a genealogist for my family and taking up the Duncan house, from my extensive investigations and researches, ...

(*next-to-last generation*;) To Martha Jane Coleman and John F. Sibley were born seven children: Thomas Golden Sibley, Katherine Bibb Sibley, Jane Sibley, Mary Alpha Sibley b. Sept. 17, 1874, Oscar Sibley, Lenoud Sibley, Belle Sibley.

“Genealogy of **James Franklin Duncan** of Atlanta, Georgia” author not given (copy of title & pages 1-11 from Mary Louise Craven 7/17/86; to her from Jim Duncan, Christ Methodist Church, Memphis; typed by Evelyn Sigler 10/5/86)

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....

The Escutcheon of Rev. **William Duncan**, of Glasgow, Scotland; among the first of the Scottish “Dominies” to be called “Reverend”, the religious ministerial title first used in England in 1657, is —

The works of “Burke” and “Fairbain” record:-

Scotland. Duncan (Mairdrum)-- Arms: a black boar’s head erased; Crest: The same as the arms; Motto: “tien le droit” (interp. “Defend the right”)

And the crest of the Haldane family of Perthshire is: “An eagle’s head erased or.”

And the metals of the shields on which the marshallings are made are traditionally silver and gold (ar. and or.).

Mr. **William E. Duncan** of Warren Co. Kentucky, the uncle of my wife, visited his relations in the Cos. of Culpeper and Fauquier, Virginia, after the close of the Civil War between the States (betw. 1866-70); and upon his return to Kentucky, gave me much information relative to the Duncan family, which I afterward verified and completed by extensive researches.

....

Beginning with the family history to prove the result, said **William Duncan** was born 1630 1/7 in Perthshire, the son of well-to-do parents; and was educated for the ministry, which is reasonable proof that he was a younger son, for during those times the parental estates almost invariably reverted by entailment or otherwise to the elder son as the legitimate heir to the property of the “house”; and the younger male children of a prosperous marriage alliance were generally looked out for by securing a “Living” under the Church, or by obtaining commissions for them in either the army or navy of the realm. So William was evidently not the heir, for at that era, had he been, it is probably he would not have readily taken to the ecclesiastical gown; and that he was the second son is more than circumstantially proven by the discovery of his arms bearing the crescent for difference — the heraldic designation of a second son. After these emblazonments were ascertained, the reviewing of his coat of arms was plain sailing. His crest, as ascertained by Mr. Duncan when he visited Fauquier Co. Va., a golden eagle’s head, was found to be the crest of the Haldane family of Perthshire and the Rev. William’s wife was a descendant of the Gleneagle’s “house” of Haldanes of that ‘shire. It is consequently plain to see that this eminent properly marshalled his own coat-of-arms, but with a commendable liberality, selected the crest of his wife’s “house” in designing the escutcheon for themselves and their children.

....

Generation A. — Scotland

Rev. **William** (1) **Duncan** (spelled in Scotland Duncanne), b. 1630 1/7 in Perthshire and d. 1692/3 1/2 near Glasgow; m. 1657 8/29 in Glasgow, Susan or Sarah Haldane (pronounced as if spelt Halden). b. ab. 1635, of the Gleneagles general family in Perthshire by that name, and by her had five children — all of whom were grown when their father died.

Generation B. — Scotland and Virginia, Colony of America

The eldest son and child of Rev. Wm. and Susan (Haldane) Duncan, was: —

William (2) **Duncan**, b. 1659 10/1 in Scotland and d. ab. 1720 in Virginia; m. Margaret McMurdo of Dumfries, Scotland, and they had issue of seven children.

This family, parents and children, immigrated to America, ab 1690-4 and first located at or near “Bellhaven” (now Alexandria), in Virginia, where it is supposed their father died; and the children something (sic) later settled for a time in the section of the colony then known as its “Northern Neck” and of which Culpeper Co. when formed was a part.

Generation C. -- Virginia

The fifth son and seventh child and said to have been the youngest of the children of William (2) and Margaret (McMurdo) Duncan, was:-

William (3) Duncan, b. 1692 4/19 in Virginia (possibly in Scotland), and d. 1781 in Culpeper Co. VA., m. 1722 2/11, Ruth Rawley of Culpeper, dau. of Matthew Rawley of Welsh descent – who immigrated to America, and they had issue of nine children all born in Culpeper Co. Va. This William (3) Duncan was the first of his name in Culpeper, where he arrived 1722/3 1/23 and married 19 days thereafter. This William purchased land in Orange Co., in 1736 and in Culpeper Co., 1749; and ultimately became a wealthy and influential citizen of Culpeper. And the escutcheon of William (3) Duncan in Virginia was the same as his Grandfather's in Scotland; and "his descendants, the old Scottish families that settled on the "Northern Neck" of VA., were true to the cause of American freedom during the great struggle for independence" (Gresham); and later, their descendants, during the Civil War of the "Sixties", battling for sectional rights and in defense of their families and homes.

....

Generation H. -- Virginia

The third child of Robert Russell Duncan and Lucy (Browning) Duncan was:-

James Franklin Duncan, b. 1875 10/12 and m. 1905 11/2, May Boney of Louisiana, and they had 2 sons and 1 dau., James Franklin Duncan, Junior, Robert V. and Laura C. Duncan.

....

Much of the earlier part of the pedigree has been taken from MS. entries in the old Bible of **William (3) Duncan** (1st of Culpeper), which he gave to his son **James**, is still in existence in possession of his heirs in Kentucky, and was loaned me from which to make genealogical extracts; and other family history was obtained from the records of the various branches of the family, from Court records in Culpeper Co., Va., from various published compilations; and very materially from the Ms. writings to me, by Judge Daniel A. Grimsley of Culpeper, Va. I have a complete genealogy of the earlier members of the Duncan family of Scotland and America, especially of the Culpeper Duncans and the Kentucky descendants of **Wm. (3) Duncan**, with names and dates all attested; and if I ever publish my genealogical researches, such analytical work will contain marginal references giving authorities for my statements.

....

The foregoing synoptical history is donated to the descendants last named in the pedigree, with the expressed and agreed understanding that neither the whole nor any part thereof, under any circumstances or for any consideration, is to be published or to be allowed to be copied, without the writer's consent; until after he shall have published the Duncan genealogy or after death shall have ended his earthly career.

"Duncan Family" by Donald Linville Duncan, Pismo Beach, CA, 1982 (loaned by Laura Jones 7/16/83) Part 1, pg.23: Letter to Mrs. Edwin M. Taylor, Piedmont, CA, 9/15/67, from Church of Scotland, General Assembly, regarding Mrs. Taylor's inquiry about Rev. William Duncan. Extracted from the Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae "containing all the information we have concerning Mr. Duncan." [Contributed by Ethel E. Pratt Brown]:

WILLIAM DUNCAN, M.A., (King's College, Aberdeen, 1648); assistant at Auchindoir 21st October 1652; admitted prior to 18th October 1653 to Kildrummy; admitted before 18th July 1666; outed at the Revolution; died in 1692, aged about 65. He married Janet Macarthur, and had issue – **William**; probably also **Alexander**, minister of Kilbirnie. -- (Reg. Old Dec., iii.; Rule's Sec. Vindication; Argyll Sas., ii., 254.)

Pg.24-26: ... One of the Duncans of Warren County, Kentucky, visited relations in Culpeper and Fauquier Counties, Virginia, after the close of the Civil War and speaking of the Duncan Coat-of-arms, said from what he learned, he believed it to be a Black boar's head and a new moon, with an eagle's head above them. ... [From Mrs. Maude Humphries and Willard H. Duncan; sources also notes of Samuel S. Sargent and "Genealogical Record of the Duncan Family of Virginia and Kentucky" by John C. Underwood.]
(more on original coat of arms and Haldane family.)

Pg.27-29: Rev. **William Duncan** married in Glasgow, Scotland, and at that time he was murdered on the

sands of Dumfriesshire for refusing to take the Jacobite Oath ... {January 2, 1692} ... **James Duncan** was born in Culpeper County, Virginia in 1764. He was the son of **Rawley Duncan** and Sallie McLane. At the age of seventeen he ran away from home ... [From Willard H. Duncan; sources: "notes of Dr. James Armistead Duncan, 1872; letter from Samuel McAfee Duncan, Nov. 12, 1891; letter from George Alsop Duncan, M.D., Sept. 10, 1874, to Samuel M. Duncan of Nicholasville, KY; all collected and compiled by Samuel S. Sargent] (*MAD: see Rev. Wm. Bible from June Rickets for info on James Duncan, their son.*)

... The children of Rev. **William Duncan** and Sarah Haldane Duncan were: **William Duncan II, Charles Duncan, Thomas Duncan**, and daughter, **Mary Duncan**.

William Duncan III, born 19 April, 1692, was the grandson of Rev. **William Duncan**. He was a very young child on arrival in the colonies in 1694. He was the son of **William Duncan II** and Margaret McMurdo, who immigrated to Northern Neck, Virginia. The Duncans landed at Brock Haven; they settled first near Bellehaven, (Now Alexandria), Virginia.

William Duncan III moved to Culpeper County, Virginia, 23 January, 1722. On February 11, of the same year he took to wife Ruth Rawley (Raleigh), daughter of Matthew Rawley, who was born in England of Welsh parentage. **Rawley Duncan**, their eldest son, was with General Washington at Braddock's defeat in 1755; also at Point Pleasant in 1774, where he was severely wounded, and was in all attacks made by the Colonial Troops against the invasion of Virginia by the traitor Arnold in 1781. ...

Pg.31-35: ... **William Duncan III**, Son of **William II** and Margaret McMurdo Duncan, born 19 April, 1692 in Perth, Perthshire, Scotland (Or maybe in Northern Ireland, some say born on board ship on way to British Colonies in America), married 11 February, 1722, Ruth Rawley, born 1702, of Welsh Parentage. ...

John Pekin Duncan, Son of **William Duncan III** and his wife, Ruth Rawley Duncan, born 23 August, 1736, in Culpeper County, Virginia, married Rachel Warren, born ca 1740, a daughter of Ephriam Warren and Esther Parker of Massachusetts. **John P. Duncan** was the FIRST in a direct line of our Duncan Family to be born in America.

Xerox copy of letter 23 Feb. 1983 from Mrs. Ethel E. Brown, Bull Shoals, AR, to Verna Hamilton, La Crescenta, CA (from Verna to Virginia Duncan of Lewisburg, KY; from Virginia 11/28/83)

Mrs. Brown's lineage: Rev. **William Duncan** (etc.); **William Duncan II** and Margaret McMurdo (etc.); **William Duncan III** and Ruth Rawley (etc.; info from her cousin Willard Duncan of Florida); **John Pekin Duncan** and wife Rachel Warren ... Note: Rachel's parents were Ephriam Warren and Esther Parker.

Mrs. Brown then said she believed Verna Hamilton's ancestor (apparently a brother of **John Pekin Duncan**) was **Charles Duncan**, b. 8 Oct. 1742, who married Sarah Browning.

Mrs. Brown also told Verna Hamilton "It isn't necessary for you to try and find Clyde Hunter's book on my Duncans. One of my cousins has published "Our Duncan Family" and THINKS he has found our Dolly H. I don't know what proof he has, but it sounds very sensible."

(*MAD Note: Laura Jones of Ormand Beach, FL, has been writing or talking to a cousin of Donald Linville Duncan, the author of "Our Duncan Family."*)

Family Record of **William Duncan**, a Scotch immigrant who settled in the Colony of Virginia in 1722. (typed pages; from ? Nancy Duncan Young to John A. Duncan 6/2/84; from John A. Duncan 8/22 & 11/6/84; copies to Evelyn Sigler, Bobbie McDowell, Charles Gordon, Patti Carver)

Culpeper County, Virginia; June 10th, 1872.

Mr. Samuel M. Duncan, Esq., Nicholasville, Kentucky

My Dear Sir,

I have read your letter of May the 25th with great interest and pleasure. I employed last week Captain Thomas Chew to copy the Colonial Records preserved of William Duncan who settled in Virginia in 1722. He was the grand-son of Reverend **William Duncan**, who was born in Pentshire, Scotland, January the 9th., 1630, and fell a martyr during the religious troubles that afflicted the Church of Scotland

in that age. The following epitaph is yet preserved among his Virginia descendants.

“Here lieth Reverend **William Duncan**, who for his adhering to the word of God and appearing for Christ’s Kingly government in his house, and the covenanted deformation. Against Perjury and Prelacy ejected January the 2nd., 1665. Stay hapengen read here intrived doth by. A witness against born Scotland’s perjury. Whose head once fixed upon the bridge Post Stood proclaiming vengeance for his guilty blood.” (sic)

William Duncan who was born in Dumfriesshire, December the 6th., 1690 and the founder of the family in Virginia, married Ruth Rawley, daughter of Mathew Rawley, in 1726. Mathew Rawley was a native of Wales and was a member of the Church of England. Settled in Virginia in 1720. From the records which all Scotch Presbyterians have preserved in their churches. I copy the following record of William Duncan.

Margaret Maldone, born in 1727.

Mehitable, born in 1729.

Ruth Elizabeth, born in 1732.

Mary Ann, born in 1734.

Rawley, born in 1736.

William, who was my Grandfather was born December the 6th. 1739 and died on the 10th. of June 1824.

Charles, born October 8th., 1742.

James, who married Sina Browning of Augusta County, Virginia, and settled at an early day in Kentucky.

Rawley Duncan, whom you say was your Great Grandfather, was married to Sallie McLane, daughter of James McLane of Stafford County, Virginia. He was the father of six children; **Margaret, Elizabeth, Susan, Edward, Charles**, and **James**, who was the youngest son of **Rawley Duncan**, my Grand Uncle. **Rawley Duncan** and my Grandfather served in the regiment

....

I have furnished you a long list of the descendants of **Charles Duncan**, your Great Grandfather and also the descendants of **James S.** my Grandfather. I am indebted to Dr. George Armistead Duncan who is the writer of the letter to me from Culpepper County, Virginia, in 1872.

Very truly, S.H. Duncan, November 12, 1891

Handwritten in 6 pages in back of book: “Gen. & Hist. Notes on Culpepper Co. VA” by Raleigh Traverse Green (compiled & published by), published 1900, original by Dr. Phillip Slaughter, “History of St. Mark’s Parish” in Owensboro KY Library (Xerox copy from June Ricketts 7/23/83) June suggests that the numbers after the names (Gen. C) may be page numbers.

Gen A – From Bible of Rev. **Wm. Duncan** – pub. 1565

Rev. **William Duncan** – b Jue 7- 1613 – d (MAD: blank), Born Perthshire Scotland, Married in Glasgow – Scotland Aug. 29 – 1636, Sasan Haldene, dau. Richard Haldane & Mary Kennett

Gen B – issue Rev. **Wm** & Susan Haldane Duncan

1 **William II** – born – Oct. 1 – 1639

2 **Charles**, Sept 6 – 1642

3 **Henry**, Jan 11 – 1644

4 **Thomas** }twins, Jan 28 – 1645

5 **Susan** }

Gen C – **Wm Duncan II** – son of Rev. **Wm** & Susan Haldane Duncan – at age of 24 yrs – married Margaret McMurdo of Dumfriesshire 21 Jun 1662. issue

1 **Henry**, born July 26 – 1665 (85 p.1)

2 **Charles**, Aug 6 – 1667 (87)

3 **Thomas**, June 11 – 1669 (89)

4 **Townsen** } Dec – 1671 (91)

5 **Mary** } twins

6 **Wm III**, Apr 19 – 1674 (94)

7 **Elizabeth Duncan**

8 **Barbara**

9 Susan

The above grand-children of Rev **Wm Duncan** I. arrived in Culpeper Co Va 1722 Jan. 23.

Wm Duncan III b – Apr – 1674 – youngest g-son, married 11 – Feb – 1722 – Ruth Rawley, only child of Mathew Rawley of Wales, settled in Va – 1719.

Gen D – issue – born in Colony of Va

1* **Rawley**, born – Nov – 23 – 1723

2 **Wm** IV, Apr – 29 – 1726

3 **John**, Aug 23 – 1735

4 **Nancy** } twins

5 **Joseph** }, Dec – 11 – 1732

6 **Rice**, Feb – 15 – 1734

7 **Mary Jane**, May 3 – 1736

8+ **James**, July – 18 – 1746

+ This **James** settled in Ky – 1789 was a member of Constitutional Convention 1799

* **Rawley Duncan** died Augusta Co Va – 1793, m. Sarah McLane – who see [?] d 1789 – [MAD: unclear]

Gen E – Record of **James Duncan** – youngest son of **Rawley** & Sarah McLean Duncan

“Southwest Virginian” June, 1982, chart of Rhonda S. Roberson, Norton, VA (from Evelyn Sigler, 9/20/82)

1. Rev. **William Duncan**, b. Jan. 17, 1630, Perthshire, Scotland; d. 1692 Glasgow; m. Susan Mary Haldane, b. 1635 Perthshire, Scotland.

2. **William Duncan**, b. Jan. 19, 1659, Scotland; d. 1720 VA (ES: This differs from other records); m. Margaret Murde (sic), b. Dumfries, Scotland.

3. **William Duncan**, b. Jan. 19, 1692 VA; d. 1781 Culpeper Co., VA; m. Ruth Rawley, b. ca 1694 Culpeper Co., VA.

4. **Rawley Duncan**, b. Nov. 23, 1723; m. Sally McClain.

5. **Jaelia Duncan**, b. 1751; d. 1816 Scott Co., VA; m. Samuel Stallard, b. 1745, d. 1815 Scott Co.

Lineage of Bob J. Duncan (b. 1/15/1926 below), Nicholasville, KY, to John A. Duncan 6/6/84 (from John A. Duncan 8/22/84)

DUNCAN FAMILY – Nicholasville, Jessamine Co. KY Branch

William Duncan, born January 9, 1630 in Pentshire (sic), Scotland. Married Susan Haldane August 29, 1657. Died in 1665.

William Duncan, born December 8, 16-- in Dunfrieshire (sic), Scotland. Settled in VA in 1720. Married Ruth Rawley in 1726. (JAD: 4-17-1672 per Kerr “History of KY” Vol.IV pg.376.)

Rawley Duncan, born in 1736, married to Sally McLane on December 8, 1756. Served in the regiment which Washington commanded when General Braddock was defeated. Died in 1793.

“Genealogy & History, Washington, D.C.” December, 1940 (Copy from printed volumes, no pages or dates; from Elizabeth Smith, Albany, OH, 6/15/83 to Patti Carver; from Patti 7/20/83; have copy pages; also SLC 9/83)

2297 ---- 2084 & 1980 – MII (Ill.): Duncan, Rawley, Haldane, McLane, Armstead, McAfee, Browning, Crockett, Ritchie; Scot., Wales, Va., W.Va., N.Y., Ky., Ind.; F&I, Lord Dunmore’s & Rev. Wars.

I am of this line thru **James Duncan** (Rev. soldier), son of **Rawley Duncan** & Sarah (“Sallie”) McLane, dau. of James McLane of Stafford Co., Va., & I too, have a copy of the data collected by John C.

Underwood. Possibly Mary referred to by MH as w. of Rawley is correct but her name is given as Sallie

or Sarah in all the records I have. In one record **Rawley** is given as the oldest child of **William**(3) and Ruth (Rawley) Duncan & in another as 5th child & oldest son. I quote in part from letter of June 10, 1872 from James Armstead Duncan, M.D., Culpeper C.H., Va., to my gt.gt.uncle, Samuel McAfee Duncan, Nicholasville, Ky.:

"I have read your letter of May 25th with great interest and pleasure. I employed last week Capt. Thos. Chew to copy the Colonial Records preserved of **William Duncan** who settled in Va. in 1722. He was the grandson of Rev. **Wm. Duncan ... Wm. Duncan III** was born in Dumphrieshire, Scotland. Married Ruth Rawley, dau. of Matthew Rawley a native of Wales and was a member of the Church of England. Settled in Va. 1720. From the record which all Scotch Presbyterians have preserved in their Churches, I copy the following record of **Wm. Duncan: Margaret Haldane** b. 1727 **Ruth Elizabeth** b. 1732 (?) **Mehitable** b. 1729 **Mary Ann** b. 1734 **Rawley** Duncan b. 1736 (other record says b. 11-23-1732) **William** b. Dec. 6, 1739 d. 10th June 1824 was my grandfather. James Duncan married Sena Browning of Augusta Co. & settled in Ky.

....

"Jessamine (KY) Journal" Friday, November 2, 1888, front page (from Lexington, KY, library; copy of column from John A. Duncan 10/23/84)

GENEALOGICAL -- One of the Old Jessamine Families

The Duncans -- Ancient and Modern -- Here and Elsewhere.

To the Editors of the Jessamine Journal:

More than a month since I received the following interesting letter from an unknown kinsman, Charles C. Duncan, of North Carolina, who it appears is a great-nephew of **Rawley Duncan**, my great-grand-father. As the letter contains many interesting facts which have never been known to any of the living descendants of Rawley Duncan, scattered over the Southern and Western states, I don't think it out of place to request you to give it a place in your paper.

My grand-father, **James** Duncan, and his brother, **Charles** Duncan, settled in the present limits of Jessamine county early in the fall of 1788. Charles Duncan was born in Culpepper county, Va., in 1762. He was the father of the late **William** Duncan, Esq., and the grand-father of Robert and Benjamin Duncan. **Charles** Duncan died in Washington county, Ind., about the year 1831. My grand-father was also born in Culpeper county, in 1764, and was killed near the mouth of Paint Lick in Madison county, Ky., Nov. 7, 1792, in the twenty-eighth year of his age, leaving a widow and three small children. In 1781 he ran away from home and in company with Nathaniel Harris enlisted in the rebel army under Gen. Greene; was at the battle of Guilford, C.H., and at the siege of Yorktown. Nathaniel Harris afterwards became one of the most distinguished Methodist preachers of the olden times in Kentucky. He was for more than sixty-five years a preacher in the Methodist church in Kentucky, and died in Versailles in 1849, being eighty-four years of age.

I never knew before that my grandfather had two sisters, and a brother named Edward, and that my great-grand-father was in Braddock's defeat in 1755, and enlisted in the American army during the Revolution to resist the invasion of Virginia by Lord Cornwallis and Gen. Arnold. Such facts have never been known to any of their descendants in Kentucky.

S.M.D.

The Letter.

Sedge (?) Moor Farm, Near Edenton, N.C. Sept. 18, 1888.

Sam'l. M. Dancan, Nicholasville, Ky.

Dear Sir: -- In the "Sunny South" of Sept. 15th, I have seen and read a very interesting sketch you have recently written concerning the finding of the remains of **James Duncan**, your grand-father, who was murdered by a party of Indians in the early settlement of Kentucky, near the mouth of Paint Lick creek, in Madison county, Ky., Nov. 7, 1792, in the 28th year of his age, leaving a widow with three small children. In your very interesting notice of your grand-father you state that he was the youngest child of **Rawley Duncan**, of Culpeper county, Va., that he and his brother **Charles Duncan** removed from Virginia to Kentucky in the summer of 1788. I am happy to inform you that **Rawley Duncan**, your great-

grand-father, was the oldest brother of my grand-father, **Charles Duncan**, who was born in Culpeper county, Va., on the 7th of December, 1742. My uncle **Rawley** was also born in the same county in 1736; was married to Sallie McLane, daughter of James McLane, of Stafford county, in 1759. My grand-father married Susan Bourn, of Orange county, in 1769; had ten children, six sons and four daughters, to wit: **Thomas, John, George, Benjamin, Robert, Charles, Susanah, Elizabeth, Louiza and Nancy Ann**. Your great-grand-father, **Rawley Duncan**, according to the "old Colonial church record," was the father of six children, **Margaret, Elizabeth, Edward, Charles and James**, who was your grand-father, the youngest son of my great-uncle.

My grand-father had a brother **James**, who was born in 1746, married Sina Browning, of Augusta county, Va., and settled at an early day in Kentucky. **Margaret** married James Strother, of Fauquier county, and died without issue in 1807. **Elizabeth** married William Garnett. She had one son who died in Philadelphia in 1801, attending the Medical lectures of the distinguished Dr. Rush. **William Duncan**, the founder of the family in the colony of Virginia, was born in Dumfriesshire, Scotland, Dec. 28th, 1690. He was the grand-son of the Rev. **William Duncan** who lost his life for refusing to take the "Jacobite Oath" during the reign of Charles II. His grand-son **William**, settled in Virginia in 1724, and was married to Ruth Rawley, daughter of Mathew Rawley, in 1726. Mathew Rawley was a native of Wales, and was a member of the Church of England and settled in Virginia in 1720. From the record which all Scotch Presbyterians have preserved in their churches, I copy the following record of **William Duncan**, the founder of the family in Virginia:

Margaret Haldane, born 1727; **Mehitable**, born 1729; **Ruth Elizabeth**, born 1732; **Mary Ann**, born 1734; **Rawley Duncan**, born 1736; **William Jr.**, born 1739; **Charles**, born 1742; **James**, born 1746; **Townsend**, born 1752.

Rawley Duncan and my grand-father served in the regiment which Washington commanded in the British army when Gen. Braddock was defeated and killed in 1755. My grand-father was severely wounded in the battle of Point Pleasant in 1774. When Gen. Arnold, the traitor, invaded Virginia in 1781, my great-uncle and grand-father volunteered ...

Portion of letter from Carolyn A. (Mrs. M.K.) Ruch, Pasadena, CA, 3/10/1964, to "Dear Cousin" in Nicholasville, KY (from Robert J. Duncan, Nicholasville, KY, to John A. Duncan 9/21/84; from John A. Duncan 10/23/84)

You may not remember that you wrote to my mother, Julia Brown Asplund in 1955, sending her a copy of the letter from Dr. **George Armistead Duncan**. I answered the letter for her at that time, ... Since then I have been corresponding with a number of people who are working on the tremendous jigsaw puzzle of the innumerable Virginia Duncans. Just to remind you of my identity and relationship, my mother was Julia (Brown) Asplund, daughter of James Duncan Brown, son of **Julia** (Duncan) Brown, daughter of **James B. Duncan** (*JAD: wife Ann Ramey*) of Winchester, Ky., who was the third son of **Charles Duncan** and Margaret Burnside of Jessamine Co. and brother to your ancestor, **William Duncan**. I have **James B. Duncan's** family Bible.

Last fall was the first chance I had ever had to get to Nicholasville. I was able to spend one whole day in the courthouse, copying all the records I could find on Duncans. I also went to the Duncan family cemetery (which I didn't know existed) and found my great-great-grandmother's tombstone. I met Robert Duncan and his son who live up there, but found they had (or didn't know they had) any additional information. I also walked through the Nicholasville cemetery looking for Duncan stones.

Now, the problem is, basically, to try to verify the material in Dr. **George Armistead Duncan's** letter. Unfortunately there are important contradictions — things which have been proved wrong. Nobody that I know of has ever been able to locate ANYTHING on a **Rawley Duncan** who died in 1793 and was buried at Old Timber Ridge Church. (I searched that cemetery on my trip and there are NO Duncan stones.) The county clerk of Rockbridge Co., VA. states that the name Duncan does not appear in the records from 1778 through 1848. Dr. Duncan says that **Rawley** was the son of **William** of Culpeper and gives the names of four other children of **William** for which there is record proof, but apparently wrong dates. I have never found or heard of any **Rawley** or **Raleigh Duncan** of that generation except the son of **William** the Elder of Culpeper. My next effort was to see if **Rawley** the son of **William** the Elder for

whom there is a good deal of record proof could be connected with **Charles** and **James** of Jessamine Co. **Rawley** died in Washington Co., Va. in 1786. Russell Co. was formed from Washington Co. in that same year and included the part of the county in which **Rawley**'s land was located.

The copy of the letter which George Armistead Duncan wrote to Samuel M. Duncan says, "**Rawley Duncan**, whom you say was your great-grandfather ...". My first step was to find out whether Samuel M. was able to get reasonably first hand information about his great-grandfather and whether he was really related to **Charles Duncan** of Jessamine Co. Please don't blame me for bringing up some of these questions which you take for granted because I had no way of knowing the answers. I am well-satisfied that Samuel could get this information. The fact that **Alexander C. Duncan**, Samuel's father is buried in **William Duncan**'s family graveyard is sufficient reason to accept the fact that he was a close relative and almost certainly a first cousin, son of **William**'s father's brother, **James**. As they were approximately the same age and oldest children in their respective families, Samuel certainly had access to all the information that they had. The last record I found for **Charles Duncan** in Jessamine Co. was 1812. At this time **William** was about 24 years old and there is every reason to believe that **Charles** would have told him the name of HIS grandfather. He probably also told **William** that he, **Charles**, was born in Culpeper Co., Va. as Samuel Duncan says. **William** certainly lived long enough to communicate all this to his young cousin, **Samuel**. (I know that this groundwork seems interminable, but I want to show enough evidence to get other genealogists to look for record proof.)

.....

"Descendants of William Duncan the Elder of Culpeper Co. VA" by Nancy Reba Roy (d. 1977), 1959, (Los Angeles Public Library book R929.2 D911-3), pgs.1-4+.

There are many early Duncan wills in Virginia but as yet none has proved as belonging to an ancestor of **Wm.** the Elder. The descendants of one **William Duncan** have their own family history from **HENRY DUNCAN**, 2d son of **Wm. Duncan** (one of three martyred brothers) executed during the reign of King Charles II, in 1665. "He had four sons, **William, Henry, George** and **Charles**, who emigrated to America in 1678, and settled in Westmoreland Co. Va."

According to Judge John C. Underwood, who m. a desc. of **Charles Duncan** and Elizabeth Dillard, **WILLIAM DUNCAN** was a desc. of Rev. **Wm. Duncan**, b. in Perthshire, Scotland, in 1630, who was "outed" by the rabble of the Revolution in 1688, whose wife was Sarah Haldane. Scottish records give this minister's wife as Janet McArthur. "He married Janet McArthur and had issue: **William**, and probably also **Alexander**, minister of Kilbournie." (Fast1 Ecclesiae Scotieanae, 1871, edition) **William**, the son of **Wm.** and Janet did not become a minister, so we have no records for him. **Charles Duncan** who m. Elizabeth Dillard is NOT a proven descendant of **William Duncan**, the Elder, of Culpeper. Traditions of the Jessamine Co. Ky. Duncans, from records of Dr. George A. Duncan and Samuel McAfee Duncan, give their ancestor (**William Duncan**) as being born on January 7, 1613 (later changed to 1630), as marrying Sarah Haldane in 1636 (later changed to 1656) and as being killed on the Sands of Dumfriesshire in 1665 for refusing to take the Jacobite oath. He was apparently a Covenanter. This family appears to descend from a **Raleigh Duncan** who m. Sally McLane, and who died in Rockbridge Co. Va. in 1793, and was bur. in the Old Timber Ridge Cem. A search of Rockbridge History reveals no **Raleigh Duncan**.

Judge Daniel Grimsley of Culpeper Co. Va. in his letter to Robert L. Duncan of Lincoln Co. Mo. states that the ancestor of the Duncans of Culpeper was **JOHN DUNCAN** of Scotland, who had a brother **George** who went to Pennsylvania.

Traditionally **William Duncan** came to Culpeper Co. Va. (then Orange Co.) in January, 1722, where he married Ruth, dau. of Matthew Rawley or Raleigh, Feb. 11, 1722. The birthdate of **William** varies as to year but is given as April 19. He appears to have been one of those who came from Dumfries.

"The Duncan Family" by Gustave Anjou (SLC book 929.273 D912a, film 928,019)

The object of this Preface is to confirm as well as to confute traditions. In the body of this History, the

reader will find documentary evidence for a clearly connected line.

In a printed pamphlet, purporting to be the "Biographical and Family History Sketch of Alexander Edward Duncan", by B.F. Johnson, Inc., Washington, D.C., supplemented by various alleged Pedigrees, compiled by the successors of this apocryphical firm, L. Wilson & Company, also of Washington, D.C., at 602-604 Eleventh Street, N.W., but there totally unknown, it is stated "Moses Duncan, the known great great grandfather of the above-mentioned A.E.Duncan, was son of **John Duncan**, and his wife Wilkey Duncan, of Warrenton, Fauquier County, Virginia," which is quite true.

*(MAD: this genealogy gives **William Duncan** of Culpeper Co. VA erroneously as the William, son of John and Elizabeth Money, son of the immigrant Peter Duncan of Westmoreland Co. VA)*

"Henry-Coleman Duncan Family" (Los Angeles Public Library booklet R929.2 D911-5; LA 2/3/82; Stamped date on title page: Sep 4 1964)

THE HENRY – COLEMAN DUNCAN FAMILY – DESCENDANTS OF PETER DUNCAN OF WESTMORELAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA – not Descendants of Wm. the Martyr that we can prove. By Nancy R. Roy, La Mesa Calif.

DUNCAN

Genealogy of **Henry Duncan** the son of Sanford Duncan and Nancy Hammond, beginning with **William Duncan** of Scotland (one of the three martyred brothers) who was born in 1630, and was executed during the reign of King Charles II, in the year 1665.

He had four sons, **William, Henry, George** and **Charles**, who emigrated to America in 1678, and settled in Westmoreland County, Va. From these four sons a large family originated which has spread throughout the entire United States.

.....

Having now written all the information that can possibly be obtained of the more ancient of the Duncan family, and some little of those with whom they were immediately connected, the writer will bring this sketch to a close, without any other comment than to say that those interested must take it as it is. Some may regret that their ancestors were not more distinguished. Others may rejoice to know that they were so respectable. Written by H.S. Duncan and Nelson and James Duncan from a history written by **Sanford Duncan** of Louisville, Kentucky in the year 1852. 1871 – by **H.S. Duncan** and the information given him by his mother and brothers. ... December 25, 1871. H. S. Duncan.

(additional paragraph signed by) J. Fale Duncan Denver, Colo. Sept. 12, 1928.

"Duncan KY Families" by Mary Green Baird, 1868-1956 (extracted pages from genealogy, from Nancy Duncan Young, Leitchfield, KY, to John A. Duncan 3/18/82; from John A. Duncan 8/22/84)

DUNCAN

Genealogy of **Henry Duncan, III**, and Mildred Boyle, beginning with William Duncan of Scotland (one of three martyred brothers) who was born in 1630, and executed during the reign of King Charles II, in the year 1665.

He had four sons, **William, Henry, George** and **Charles**, who emigrated to America in 1678, and settled in Westmoreland County, Virginia. From these four sons a large family originated which was spread throughout the entire United States.

.....

(from Appendix) **William Duncan**, the Martyr (of Perthshire, Scotland) was one of three brothers executed in 1665 during the reign of Charles II for refusing to take the oath. William, the martyr, was born Jan. 7, 1630; married Sarah Holden. Sons: William born October 1, 1659; Charles born Sept. 6, 1662; Henry Duncan (our ancestor) born Jan. 11, 1664; Thomas born Jan. 28, 1665, William Duncan, grandson of the above, b. April 19, 1690, came to Culpepper County, Virginia Jan. 22, 1722. His son Rawleigh was at Braddock's defeat. (Kentucky Biographies, p.201 and 202).

The American branch of the Duncan family of which the writer will speak, is known as the

“Westmoreland Branch”, having emigrated from Scotland near the close of the 17th century and settled in Virginia, in the county of Westmoreland, near the forefathers of the great Washington.

“The Duncans of Perthshire and Their Descendants in the US” by Lew Wallace Duncan, Kansas City, MO; no date, filmed 1971 (FHC film 824,053-2; SLC 9/12/86, see Putnam Co. IN for James B. Duncan); copy sent 5/19/1983 by Mrs. Betty Ralph, Louisville, KY, with comments:

“This was surely done by someone of the **Henry Duncan** line that married Polly Combs. My line is that of their son **James B. Duncan** that married Annie Proctor, their daughter Maranda Caroline Duncan that married Andrew Jackson Stephens, and their son Ray Dillon Stephens who married Hazel Arthur (Ray and Hazel being my parents). ... The attached manuscript said that Henry and Polly were buried at Nebo Cemetery. This past summer I made a trip to Missouri and visited the Cemetery but could not find their grave. There were many very old tombstones and in pretty good condition, so, if they are buried there they did not have a tombstone erected. ... James and Annie (Proctor) Duncan ... the areas in Indiana where they settled, the counties being Putnam, Boone, and Hendricks.”

Additional comments by Mrs. Ralph at top of genealogy: “Conflicting data prior to Henry Duncan. See book “Wm. Duncan the Elder” by Nancy Roy.”

Mrs. Ralph’s earlier comments were that the date and author of this genealogy were unknown to her.

DUNCAN-

A little more than one hundred years after the landing of the Pilgrims from the Mayflower at Plymouth Rock and one hundred twelve years after “the starving time” at Jamestown an English ship brought to America some Scotch colonists to join the “F.F.V’s” of Virginia. Among the passengers on this ship were five members of the Duncan family, three brothers and two sisters, of which quintette **William Duncan** was one. They were from Perthshire, Scotland and they reached the place where their future home was to be in January 1722.

William Duncan was born in Perthshire April 19, 1690, and was a son of **Wm. Duncan, Sr.**, born October 1, 1659. This **William** was the only son of Rev. **Wm. Duncan**, whose birth-time was January 7, 1630. It is said of Rev. Duncan that he possessed that stern devotion to duty characteristic of the Scotch divine and that he died a martyr at the hands of the Jacobites when he refused to take the oath of allegiance prescribed by that organization during the reign of Charles the Second. He married in 1657, Sarah Haldane and was the progenitor of the forebears of the Duncan quintette which settled in Culpepper County, Virginia, in 1722.

END