

1 The Davidson Origins: Badenoch, Strathspey & Newtonmore

It is believed that the origins of the Davidsons stem from this area of the Highlands.

Much research has been undertaken in recent years by the Clan Davidson Association to pin down fragmentary historical leads as there are no surviving contemporary records of the early days of the Clan. Even the later records which exist have suffered from language translation errors [latin and gaelic] and copying errors.

To quote the Clan Davidson Association historians in a review published in 2004 *“Lets us stay then, until proved otherwise, with Clanday [otherwise Clandai or Clandhai] being a branch of the Clanchattan descended from David dhu, possibly of Nude, husband or son of Slane Mackintosh, daughter of Angus, chief of Mackintosh and his wife Eva. Let us also accept, at least provisionally, Clanday as a candidate for the origin of at least some present-day Davidsons”*.

The Clanday, a reputed origin of the Davidsons in this area, took part in the **Battle of Invernahavon** in approximately 1370. The location of this site is to the south west of Newtonmore, near where the Rivers Truim and Spey meet.

Another reference is that of **‘Nuide or Nude’**. David dhu, is said to have held Nuide. Today this is a single farm located just to the south of Newtonmore.

Why not turn off the A9 highway and take a break to discover this area. There may be little to show with Davidson connection today, but the Highland landscape is extraordinarily beautiful. Bring your

walking boots and explore this landscape using the way marked *Wildcat Trail* at Newtonmore.



This 10km [6.2mile] walking trail was designed by James Davidson, founder member and former President of the Clan Davidson Association. This *Wildcat Trail* takes the walker along beautiful riverside, moorland, and forest paths with superb views.

Newtonmore is on the A9 so if you are in the Highlands, why not stop off and explore the area, which has close links with Davidson roots and also with other clans such as the Clan Macpherson and Clan Chattan.



Highland Folk Museum,
Highland Council



Davidson Clansman



James Davidson