

The saga of Angus Ban MacInnis and his descendants

April 16, 1745 was the final battle between the British government forces and the Jacobite followers of Bonnie Prince Charlie. Our family progenitor Angus Ban MacInnis was sixteen years old at that time and the future must have looked pretty grim to him. He was from Arisaig, a small village on the Northwest coast of Scotland. Arisaig was home to Clanranald, a MacDonald Chieftain. While the Chief's son came out for Prince Charlie, his father did not declare himself, although the Hanoverians surely knew his sympathies. The Duke of Cumberland, son of King George, vowed to capture or kill every clansman in the Highlands.

In spite of the chaos and economic hardship following the war, Angus managed to marry and start a family. His wife's name is not recorded, however, we are told he had at least four sons. Each son eventually managed to find his way to Canada. Donald arrived as a member of a highland regiment. The date of his arrival is not known.

Brothers Hugh, Angus and Andrew arrived in Pictou, Nova Scotia after a grueling eleven-week journey from Fort William, Scotland aboard the Dunkeld. Their ship arrived in 1791 carrying four hundred other highlanders, all looking for a better life in the New World.

Two of the brothers settled on Cape George, Nova Scotia, Hugh at the point of the Cape and Angus on the west side of the Cape in Georgeville. Andrew lived at the Cape for a few years, ultimately moving to the Ohio section of Antigonish County for more productive farm land.

Fishing and farming became the mainstay of their lives and their descendants. This tradition continued until fairly recent times when the dip in fishing stocks and poor crop returns necessitated change.

My pedigree descends from Hugh "Pioneer", to his son Donald born in Scotland, to Ranald, to Dan Ranald, then to Norman, my father. With the death of my grandfather, Dan Ranald in 1929, the family was transplanted to Boston due to the economic hardship of the times. My grandmother, Mary Gillis MacInnis, then raised her five children in Newton, a Boston suburb.

My parents, Norman and Jean Dorsey MacInnis, married in 1938. This marriage produced three children, Daniel, Ronald and me, Norman Daniel. Daniel is father to Lisa, Daniel Junior, Maryann and Steven. Ronald is the father of Brittany, Luke and Jacob. My three children are John, Craig and Dawn Marie and grandchildren are Nicole, Dylan, Daniel, Tristan and Lillian. My wife is Jo-Ann Greene MacInnis, mother of Robert Giudicianni and grandmother to Thomas and Justin.

We are a long way from the violence that followed the Battle of Culloden; I think Angus Ban Macinnis would be happy to know that his Clan lives on.

Submitted May 1, 2013 by,

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