

Clan Lamont History



Kilfinan Parish Church

Kilfinan Parish Church figures prominently in the history of Clan Lamont. The earliest surviving written record of the clan, and one of the earliest of any clan; is a charter signed in 1235 by Sir Laumon, first Chief of Clan Lamont, and his uncle Duncan, giving the church to the monks of Paisley. Many of the early chiefs, including Sir Laumon's son Malcolm, are buried here. It is still an active parish church



The Lamont Memorial at Dunoon

The Lamont Memorial at Dunoon was erected in 1909 by the Clan Lamont Society (Scotland), to commemorate the 1646 massacre of 200 Lamonts by Clan Campbell.

Dunoon is a place of grim memory for the Lamonts. There the Campbells carried out one of the massacres which stain their clan's history.. In 1646 the Campbells made a concentrated attack on the Lamont castles of Toward and Ascog. When the garrisons surrendered under written guarantee of liberty, the Campbells ignored the terms of capitulation. The survivors of the defenders were carried in boats to Dunoon and in the church were sentenced to death. About 100, including women and children, were shot or stabbed to death and another 36 of "the special gentlemen" of the Lamonts were half-hanged from a tree in the churchyard and dead and dying were buried in pits. Fortunately, a sister of our Chief, hid the Campbell's written surrender offer in her hair, and was so able to preserve it. It was 16 years before the ringleaders of the massacre were brought to justice, and Sir Colin Campbell was

beheaded.. The preserved surrender document was part of the evidence against him.



An Clarsach Laomannach (The Lamont Harp)

The **Lamont** Harp, now in an Edinburgh museum, is the oldest surviving Celtic harp. The harp was the traditional musical instrument of the Celts, long before the adoption of the bagpipe in the 16th century. The harp was the instrument of the bards, those individuals whose gift of oral recitation made them invaluable to the early clan chiefs.

The Lamont harp dates from at the latest, the mid 1400s. It was in the possession of Lillias, a daughter of Duncan Lamont, our 8th Chief, when in 1464 she married Charles Robertson of Lude. The harp stayed at Lude, near Blair Atholl, until 1914, when it was purchased by the National Museum of Antiquities for 850 guineas. It is now one of the prized historical objects of Scotland



Knockdow

Seat of the McGorrie Lamonts of Knockdow, the house is located southeast of Dunoon, about 11 miles by route A 815. Located on a large wooded estate, it was built in 1817, and enlarged and remodeled by the last Lamont of Knockdow, Sir Norman Lamont, in recent times. The estate was sold in 1990 after the death of Sir Norman.