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CABLE ADDRESS  
"BONAQUI"

December 13, 1954

Mr. Walter C. Davidson,  
5979 S.W. 58th Terrace,  
Miami, Florida.

Dear Mr. Davidson:

Replying to your request for information concerning the origin, history, and tartan of the MacNab Clan of Scotland, I give you the following material from "Scottish Clans and Their Tartans," by the Duke of Montrose, published by W. and A. K. Johnston, Ltd., of Edinburgh and London, page 67.

"Pipe Music: 'The MacNabs' Gathering.'

"The MacNabs are of ecclesiastical origin. They are called in Gaelic 'Clann-an-Abba' - Children of the Abbot - and are descended from the abbots of Glendochart. The clan possessions were situated on the side of Loch Tay and stretched along the course of the Dochart to the head of Strathallan. The MacNabs prospered until the reign of Alexander III., when they were acknowledged to have been a powerful and influential family. Unfortunately for themselves they elected in 1306 to support the Comyn interests, and assisted the MacDougalls and MacNaughtons to defeat the Bruce at Dalrigh. Two years later King Robert reversed the defeat, when he overthrew the MacDougalls and MacNabs in a fierce battle in the Pass of Brander. The two clans were not subdued by that disaster, for in 1314 they and their allies, the Comyns, appeared under the English standard at Bannockburn. During these wars the lands of the MacNabs were overrun by their enemies, their houses were destroyed, and their family papers lost or stolen; and after Bannockburn their estates were forfeited and were granted by the Bruce to his loyal supporters - the MacGregors, the Dewars, Menzieses, and certain religious establishments. Thus their family history has no continuity until the time of Gilbert MacNab, who made his peace with King David II., and obtained from that monarch a charter for the barony of Bovain, in Glenshart in 1336. Gilbert is usually styled the first chief of the clan. He died in the reign of Robert II., and was succeeded by his son, Finlay (II.), who lived in the reigns of Robert II. and Robert III., and died in the reign of King James I. At this time the MacNabs had a feud with the MacGregors. The two clans had a savage but drawn encounter near Crianlartch in 1426 and so reduced were they that Duncan Campbell of Glenprichy, considering himself capable of disposing of them, obtained the royal consent to punish them. He dispossessed the MacGregors of certain lands; but the MacNabs beat him off and eventually they and the MacGregors combined against him. Finlay was succeeded by his son, Patrick III., and obtained charters for Auchlyne in 1464 and 1474, who resigned his lands to his son, Finlay, in 1487. Finlay (IV.) is said to have been a Gaelic bard. He obtained a charter