

In defence of the traditional name of Alwin, Earl of Lennox against the recent change to Ailín, Earl of Lennox.

Recently, there has been a shift in the naming of the first two hereditary earls of Lennox¹ who flourished in Scotland in the late 12th century and early 13th century. Previously, these two earls were mostly accepted as having an Anglo-Saxon name rendered as Alwin or Alwyn. Now their names are being given as Ailín to reflect a supposed Gaelic ethnicity.

The claim that the first two known hereditary earls of Lennox (hereafter called Alwin I and Alwin II) were Gaelic and had the Gaelic name Ailín is not new. At the beginning of the 20th century Alexander MacBain made such a claim in his notes on William Skene's *The Highlanders of Scotland*.² However, this did not become widely accepted.

It seems that the impetus of the recent change is the adoption and exclusive use of it in Cynthia J. Neville's book *Native Lordship in Medieval Scotland: The Earldoms of Strathearn and Lennox, c.1140-1365* published in 2005.³ It is surprising that the name change is not based on new evidence. Instead, it can easily be shown that the author has a Gaelic bias, and that the evidence does not support her position of a Gaelic spelling.

Gaelic bias

Cynthia Neville's bias is evident throughout her book. Repeatedly, she takes the position that the scribes were snobs who held prejudices against the Gaels and that they must have deliberately removed indications of a Gaelic ethnicity while writing their documents. This position can be seen in her following statements:

- *"Predictably, the literati of the Lennox region demonstrated no interest in learning even the most fundamental rules of Gaelic grammar. But intellectual snobbery did not prevent them from seeking out Gaelic speakers and from trying to devise phonetic renditions of personal and place names. From a very early period Ailin became Alwinus, and Maoldomhnaich, Maldoun' or Maldouen'."*⁴
- *"The scribes who drafted the Lennox deeds, Benedictine monks of Paisley abbey, were a sophisticated group, strongly influenced by the reforming ideology of the early thirteenth-century church and trained in the Latin charter writing tradition. Cultural prejudice may have led them to eschew terminology identified closely with native customs that they considered barbarous, and to cloak irregular or unfamiliar relationships in formal records with the less*

¹ The first known Earl of Lennox was King William I's brother David who was granted the Earldom between 1178 and 1182 (see *Chartulary of the Abbey of Lindores 1195-1479*. Ed. Rev. John Dowden. Edinburgh: Printed at the University Press by T. and A. Constable for the Scottish History Society, 1903. p. 1-2, no. 1). However, his immediate successors to the Earldom were not descended from him.

² Skene, William F. *The Highlanders of Scotland*. Edited with excusus and notes by Alexander Macbain. Stirling: Eneas Mackay, 1902. p. 413.

³ Neville, Cynthia J. *Native Lordship in Medieval Scotland: The Earldoms of Strathearn and Lennox, c.1140-1365*. Portland: Four Courts Press Ltd., 2005.

⁴ *Ibid*, p. 218.

offensive word 'servant'." ⁵

- "Rather more surprising is the lack of specific reference to *can* and *coinmheadh* in written deeds from Lennox. A distaste for terms that were strongly Gaelic in flavor on the part of Latin-trained scribes may be wholly to blame here, for there is evidence that the native lords were as dependent on such renders as were their fellows elsewhere in Scotland." ⁶
- "The anonymity of Strathearn and Lennox wives reflects more than just the chauvinism of medieval scribes; on a deeper level, it may speak to the prejudice of Latin trained authors against persons whose status they considered unworthy, an observation that has been made in regard to other aspects of contemporary Scottish culture ." ⁷

Time and time again the weight of evidence is lost to the desire for things to be Gaelic. The following revival of the evidence will hopefully stimulate better objectivity.

Meaning of Alwin versus Ailín

The names Alwin and Ailín are of different linguistic origin. The first comes from Old English and the other from Irish.

Alwin (Alwen, Alwyn, Allwyn, etc.) derives from Old English Ealdwine (old friend), Ædelwine (noble friend), or, less common, Ælfwine (elf friend).⁸ Ædelwine and Ælfwine have been also recorded as Alven or Alvin.⁹

Patrick Woulfe, still considered an authority on Irish names and surnames, stated the following about Ailín

"Ailín, g. id., Allen; an ancient Irish personal name, probably dim. of some name commencing with Ail-, noble. Latin Ailenus." ¹⁰

However, he also recognized an Anglo-Saxon equivalent:

"Ailín - VIII - Alwine, Allyne, Allin, Allen, etc. 'son of Ailwin' (Angle-Saxon Æthelwine); the name of an English family who settled in Ireland at or soon after the invasion. It can hardly be now distinguished from Ailéin, which see." ¹¹

Thus, the Anglo-Saxon name Æthelwine can be rendered in Ireland as Ailín, but the Irish name Ailín is really the equivalent of Allen. Furthermore, Ailín was typically given in Latin as Ailenus and not Alwinus.

⁵ Ibid, p. 70.

⁶ Ibid, p. 104.

⁷ Ibid, p. 209.

⁸ Reaney, Percy Hide and Richard Middlewood Wilson. *A Dictionary of English Surnames*. 3rd ed. London: Routledge, 1991. p. 61.

⁹ Ibid, p. 60.

¹⁰ Woulfe, Patrick. *Sloinnnte Gaedela is Gall: Irish Names and Surnames*. Dublin: M.H. Gill & Son, 1923. p. 168.

¹¹ Ibid, p. 220.

Contemporary references to Alwin

The following are the contemporary primary references to the first two known hereditary earls of Lennox; Alwin I and his successor Alwin II.

Name given	Date given	Document pertaining to	Reference
Alwinus comes de Leunax	1199	Cochinach, Edenanernan, Baccan, Finbealach, Drumcreue, Graguentalach, Monachkenneran, Drumtechglunan, CUILTEBUT, Dallenach	<i>Registrum Monasterii de Passelet: Cartas privilegia conventions aliaque munimenta complectens a domo fundata A. D. MCLXIII usque ad A. D. MDXXIX.</i> Edinburgh: Maitland Club, 1832. p. 157.
Alwinus comes de Levenax	-	Cochnach, Edenbernan, Baccane, Fynbertbealach, Drumcrene, Craguentalach, Monachkennane, Drumtethglunana, Cultbrit, Dalmanach	<i>Cartularium Comitatus de Levenax: Ab Initio Seculi Decimi Tertii Usque Ad Annum M.CCC.XCVIII.</i> ed. James Dennistoun Jr. Edinburgh: Maitland Club, 1833. p. 12, no. 10.
Alewinus Comes de leuenax filius et heres alewini comitis de leuen[ax]	1208-1214	Eccl[es]ie de kamsi	<i>Registrum Episcopatus Glasguensis: Munimenta ecclesie metropolitan Glasguensis a sede restaurata seculo ineunte XII ad reformatam religionem I.</i> ed. Cosmo Nelson Innes. Edinburgh: Bannatyne Club, 1843. Volume I: p. 86-87, no. 101.
Maldoueni filius et heres alwini iunioris comitis de leuenas filii et h[er]edis alwini senioris comitis de leuenas	1208-1214	Eccl[es]ie de camsi	<i>Registrum Episcopatus Glasguensis...</i> Volume I: p. 87-88, no. 102.
Alwini comitis	1233	Monachkennaran	<i>Registrum Monasterii de Passelet...</i> p. 166-168. See also Cooper, Thomas MacKay. <i>Select Scottish Cases of the Thirteenth Century.</i> Edinburgh: William Hodge & Company, Limited, 1944. p. 32-40.
Alwini comitis de Leuenax quondam patris nostri	c1250	Luss	<i>The Lennox.</i> 2 vols. ed. William Fraser. Edinburgh: n.p., 1874. Volume 2 (Muniments): p. 404, no. 207.
Alwini Com[itis] de Leuenax q[uo]nda[m] p[at]ris n[ost]ri	-	Luss	<i>Cartularum Comitatus De Levenax...</i> p. 96-98, no. 8.
Maldoveno filio Alwini comitis de Levenax	1238	Earldom of Lennox	<i>Cartularum Comitatus De Levenax...</i> p. 1, no. 1.
Duugallus filius Alwyni comitis de Levenax	1228	Dollenlenrach	<i>Registrum Monasterii de Passelet...</i> p. 214-215.
Dufgalli quondam rectoris ecclesie de Kylpatrik/	c1270	Cocmanach, Edynbernan, Fimbalauch, Backan,	<i>Registrum Monasterii de Passelet...</i> p. 180-183.

predicti Dufgalli quam Alwyni patris sui		Druncreue (Johannes de Wardroba et Maria sponsa sua)	
Dufgalli quondam rectoris ecclesie de Kylpatrik/ predicti Dufgalli quam Alwyni patris sui	c1272	Cochmanach, Edynbernan, Fimbalach, Backan, Drumcreue (Bernard de Erth et Elena sponsa sua)	<i>Registrum Monasterii de Passelet...</i> p. 192-195.
Dufgalli quondam rectoris ecclesie de Kylpatrik/ Dufgalli quam Alwini patris sui	c1273	Cochmanach, Edynbernan, Fimbalach, Backan, Drumcreue (Norrinus de Monnorgund et Forvelech spousa sua)	<i>Registrum Monasterii de Passelet...</i> p. 198-201.

As can be seen, none of the references indicate the equivalent of Allen, Allan, or Alan. All are Alwin, Alwyn or Alewin; and visibly of an Anglo-Saxon character.

Alwin II had a daughter, Eva, who married Malcolm son of Duncan, to whom were granted the lands of Glaskell, Brengoene, and Kelnasydhe and the gift of the church of Moniabrocd by Alwin II's heir.¹² Cynthia Neville and others view this Malcolm son of Duncan as the same person as Malcolm, thane of Callendar.¹³ Malcolm, thane of Callendar's successor was Alwin, thane of Callendar who was apparently a son of questionable legitimacy.¹⁴ If indeed a son of Eva and Malcolm son of Duncan, then Alwin, thane of Callendar was likely named after Alwin II. Thus, references to his name could be used as an indication of the proper name of Alwin II.

The following are references to Alwin of Callendar in the same sources as that of Alwin I and Alwin II.

Name given	Date given	Document pertaining to	Reference
Aluyno de Kalentire/Aluyno de Kalentir	circa 1240	Stratblathane	<i>The Lennox...</i> Volume 2 (Muniments): p. 6-7, no. 7.
Alevyn de Kalentyr	circa 1248	Kynherne, Letharathor	<i>The Lennox...</i> Volume 2 (Muniments): p. 12-13, no. 11.
Alwyno de Calyntyr	-	Kynerine, Lecheracherach	<i>Cartularium Comitatus de Levenax...</i> p. 35-36, no. 34.
Alwinum de Kalentar/Alwini/Alwino/Alwinus	1252	Kalentar & Levenax	Cooper, Thomas MacKay. <i>Select Scottish Cases of the Thirteenth Century</i> . Edinburgh: William Hodge & Company, Limited, 1944. p. 61-65. (x-ref. H.M. Register House, Calendar of Charters, I, no. 50)
Alewinus de Kalentyre	1253	Dundaff, etc.	<i>The Lennox...</i> Volume 2 (Muniments), p. 13-15, no. 12
Alwino thano de Calantyr	-	Cartonvenach	<i>Cartularum Comitatus De Levenax...</i> p. 26-27, no. 24.

¹² *The Lennox*. 2 vols. ed. William Fraser. Edinburgh: n.p., 1874. Volume 2 (Muniments): p. 401, no. 202; p. 402, no. 203 & p. 405-406, no. 208.

¹³ Neville, Cynthia J. *Native Lordship in Medieval Scotland: The Earldoms of Strathearn and Lennox, c.1140-1365*. Portland: Four Courts Press Ltd., 2005. p. 58.

¹⁴ Cooper, Thomas MacKay. *Select Scottish Cases of the Thirteenth Century*. Edinburgh: William Hodge & Company, Limited, 1944. p. 61-65.

Domino Alwyno de Kalenter	-	Dunypais	<i>Registrum Monasterii S. Marie de Cambuskenneth A.D. 1147-1535.</i> ed. William Fraser. Edinburgh: 1872. p. 108-109, no. 81.
---------------------------	---	----------	--

Here again, he is not referred to as Allen, Allan or Alan. Alwin and Alewin are dominant, but there are two references that suggest the name Alvin. As noted previously, Ædelwine and Ælfwine have both been rendered as Alvin.

Scribes aware of difference between Alwin and Allen

It is obvious Alwin was the intended name in the Cartonvenach charter noted above. One of the witnesses with ‘Alwino thano de Calantyr’ was one ‘Alano filio Edolf.’ A similar situation occurs in the Abbey of Paisley records with the charter relating to the lands of Dollenlenrach. In it was recorded ‘Duugallus filius Alwyni comitis de Levenax’ and ‘Waltero filio Alani senescallo.’ These prove that the scribes saw a difference between Alwin and Alan and translated each accordingly.

Furthermore, it was impossible for a scribe at the time to be unfamiliar with the names Alan, Allan or Allen. Two leading figures of the day had the name Alan. The High Steward of Scotland up until 1204 was Alan fitz Walter and upon his death he was followed by his son Walter fitz Alan. Their ancestor, Walter fitz Alan, was actually the founder of Paisley Abbey;¹⁵ a fact which every new member of the Abbey must have been told. No examples could be found in Scottish records where these High Stewards of Scotland had their name given as Alwin.

In addition, the Constable of Scotland at that time was Alan, Lord of Galloway. His death in 1234 is recorded in the Annals of Ulster and therein he is called Ailin: "Anno Domini M° cc.° xxx° iiii. Ailin, mac Uchtraigh ri Gal-Gaidhel mort[u]s est."¹⁶ This is a clear example of a Scot who the Gaels called Ailín. No examples could be found in Scottish records where Alan, Lord of Galloway had his first name recorded as Alwin.

It is not logical that Scottish scribes would anglicize the name Ailín for the earls of Lennox while at the same time giving appropriate translations for others with the same name. These examples refute Cynthia Neville’s claim that the scribes used an Anglo-Saxon variant of Ailín out of snobbery or prejudice.

Origin of useage of Gaelic Ailín

The whole notion of a Gaelic spelling of Alwin I and Alwin II was introduced by the Gaelic champion, William Forbes Skene, in his *The Highlanders of Scotland*. Therein, he calls them Aluin.¹⁷ This slight modification from Alwin, the ‘w’ being substituted with a ‘u’, seems to simply arise from the Gaelic language having no letter w. Not finding an Anglo-Saxon origin for the earls of Lennox palatable, Skene turned to a tradition among the Drummond family. The Drummonds claimed that the ancestors of the earls of Lennox were hereditary seneschals of Stratherne and bailies of the Abthainrie of Dull in the

¹⁵ *Registrum Monasterii de Passelet: Cartas privilegia conventions aliaque munimenta complectens a domo fundata A. D. MCLXIII usque ad A. D. MDXXIX.* Edinburgh: Maitland Club, 1832. p. iii, 1-2.

¹⁶ *Annala Uladh: Annals of Ulster otherwise Annala Senait, Annals of Senat: a chronicle of Irish affairs: A.D. 431-1131: 155-1541.* Edited & translated by B. Mac Carthy. 4 vols. Dublin: Alex. Thom & Co., 1893. Volume 2 (A.D. 1057–1131: 1155-1378), p. 290-291.

¹⁷ Skene, William F. *The Highlanders of Scotland, their origin, history and antiquities; with a sketch of their manners and customs, and an account of the Clans into which they were divided and of the state of society which existed among them.* London: John Murray, 1837. Volume II, p. 150-153.

Gaelic earldom of Atholl. Skene declares:

*“This connection of the Lennox family with the crown lands in Braedalbane warrants us, in the absence of other evidence, in placing the family of Lennox under the title of Atholl...”*¹⁸

Not finding a descent from the earls of Atholl defensible, William Skene changed the ancestry of the earls of Lennox in his *Celtic Scotland: A history of ancient Alban*. This time they came from the Kings of Munster in Ireland and had the spelling Ailin. In support of this, he introduced a 13th century poem by Muireadhach Albanach and an early 15th century pedigree commonly known as MS 1467.¹⁹ An examination of these sources shows that they are really of no value to the origins of the earls of Lennox.

Sources suggesting a Ailín spelling are of no historical value

First of all, the 13th century poem is said to have been composed by Muireadhach Albanach Ó Dálaigh and is recorded by William Forbes Skene as follows.

Original of the Poem on the Lennox. Muireadhach Albanach, CC	William Skene’s translation.
SAER do lennan a Leamhain, Alun og mac Muireadhaigh A chul druimnech gan duibhe, Ua Luighdech a liathmhuine.	Noble thy spouse, O Leamhan! Alun oge, the son of Muireadhach, His waving hair without blackness, Descendant of Lughaidh of Liathmhuine.
Maith do chonach gilla ngeal, O do charais do cheidfhear, Mac righ bealaigh do bhi an dan, [Gur] bhi Leamhain a leannan.	Good thy luck in white-skinned spouses, Since the time thou didst live thy first spouse, For the son of the king of Bealach it was ordained That Leamhain should be his spouse.
Gearr-abhand hainm eacht oile, A reimheas na rioghroidhe, Go riacht Corc Muimnech tar muir; Folt druimnech os a dhearcuibh.	Gearr-Abhann was thy name of old, In the reign of the kings, Until Corc of Muster came over the sea With waving hair above his eyes.
Da tainic Fearadhach fionn, Mac righ Alban na noirphioll, Da ndearna re Corc cleamhnas, Ar thocht ina thighearnas.	When came Fearadhach Fionn, Son of the king of Alban the Carpets of Gold, When he made with Corc alliance. Upon coming into his lordship
Tug Fearadhach, feirrde leom, A inghean do Corc chuil-fhionn, Lan da tairm Teamhair Mide, Leamhain ainm na hinghine.	Fearadhach gave--to me it seems well-- His daughter to fair-haired Corc. Full of his renown is Tara of Meath, Leamhain was the name of the daughter.

¹⁸ Skene, William F. *The Highlanders of Scotland, their origin, history and antiquities; with a sketch of their manners and customs, and an account of the Clans into which they were divided and of the state of society which existed among them*. London: John Murray, 1837. Volume II, p. 153.

¹⁹ Skene, William F. *Celtic Scotland: A history of ancient Alban*. Edinburgh: David Douglas, 1880. Volume III: Land and People, p. 117-119, 351, 359-361, 454-455, 476.

<p>Toircheas rioghna rug Leamhain, Maine mac Chuirc chuil-leabhair, Do thaisigh na hucht an ten, Do Chorc Chaisil na coilen.</p>	<p>A queenly birth bought forth Leamhan, Maine, son of Corc of the long hair. She cherished in her bosum the bird For Corc of Cashel of the hounds.</p>
<p>Aen do laithibh do Leamhain, Mathair Mhaine mheirleabhair, Caega inghen fa ban bonn, Ag snamh innbhir na habhonn.</p>	<p>One day that Leamhain was (The mother of Maine of the slender fingers) With fifty maidens of white soles, Swimming in the river's mouth,</p>
<p>Baidhter i an ucht an chalaidh, Leamhain inghean Fhearadhaigh, Baister Leamhain ort da eis, Meabhair nach olc re a fhaisneis.</p>	<p>She is drowned in the bosum of the port. Leamhain, the daughter of Fearadhach, Thou art named Leamhain after that, A remembrance not bad to be related.</p>
<p>Dob annamh ceim catha gall, Fa timlibh uaine a abhann, Fa meince leat a Leamhain, Mac eillte fa tinnbhearaibh.</p>	<p>Seldom was the tramp of a Gall battalion Upon thy green borders, O river! Oftener with thee, O Leamhain! The son of a hind above thy Innbhears.</p>
<p>Do fhas chughat Alun og, Mac Muireadhaigh na min rod, Aluinn snuadh a ghlac nglan-ur, Slat do chuan an ched Alun.</p>	<p>There had grown up to thee Alun oge, Son of Mureadhach of the smooth roads, Splendid the colour of his pure fresh hands, A scion of the wood of the first Aluin.</p>
<p>Noch ar leathchumthach leanna, Alun og ua hOilealla, Bi an gheag do fhine Alun, Cead ag ibhe in aen ghalun.</p>	<p>Not alone drinking ale Is Alun oge, descendant of Oilleall. The branch of the race of Alun sits With an hundred to drink from the same gallon.</p>
<p>Gen co beith acht aen tunna dfhion, Ag fine Chuirc na caeimhriog, Ni sochma siol ceann-glan Chuirc, Da ndearna fion do anairt.</p>	<p>Though there should be but one tun of wine To the race of Corc of the comely kings, Not happy the fair-headed son of Corc Should he save the wine from death.</p>
<p>Mormhaer Leamhna leaca mhin, Deagh-mhac inghine Ailin, A gheal-lamh, a thaebh, a throigh, Saer do leannan a Leamhain. Saer.²⁰</p>	<p>The Mormaer of Leamhan of the smooth cheek, The worthy son of Ailin's daughter, His white hand, his side, his foot; Noble is thy spouse, O Leamhan!²¹</p>

Problems with this poem's historical accuracy begin with the claims made about Corc of Munster. Maine was actually the son of Cairbre and grandson of Corc.²² Furthermore, the wife of Corc is given in other

²⁰ Skene, William F. *Celtic Scotland: A history of ancient Alban*. 2nd edition. Edinburgh: David Douglas, 1890. Volume III: Land and People, p. 454-455.

²¹ Ibid, p. 117-119.

²² Watson, William John. *History of the Celtic Place-names of Scotland*. Edinburgh & London: William Blackwood & Sons, 1926. p. 220-221. See also Hart, John. *Irish Pedigrees; or the origin and stem of the Irish Nation*. 2nd series. Dublin: M.H. Gill & Son, 1878. p. 74.

Irish poems as Mungfinn,²³ prompting Skene to call her Leamhan Mongfionn.²⁴ However, there are doubts about Corc having a Scottish wife.²⁵

Another problem is the the notion of the River Leven being named after Leamhan. This is not accepted. In response to this claim Thomas Owen Clancy remarked:

*"In the case of one poem by Muireadhach Albanach Ó Dálaigh (who is discussed by Katherine Simms in Chapter 9), composed for the mormaer of the Lennox, his ancestor's marriage to the eponymous Leven is emblematic of the river's centrality to the Lennox and its rulers, with their seat at Balloch. This is one of the clearest-cut Scottish examples of one of the most productive motivations for tales in early medieval Ireland, the genre known as dindsheanchas (lore of prominent places), in which the question 'why is X so called' is answered through story. Here the Leven is called from the king of Scotland's daughter who drowned in the river. That such tales were persuasive to their audiences is shown by the known effects of Muireadhach's fabricated legend. He makes a Munster prince in exile, Corc, the lover of Leven, and is surely the first to create this story. But subsequent generations of the Lennox would employ the name Corc, and his son in the story, Maine, among its sons."*²⁶

Muireadhach Albanach Ó Dálaigh's poem's relevance to the first earls of Lennox contains a fatal flaw. The poem is about Alun oge son of Mureadhach. He, the Mormaer of Lennox, is called the son of Ailin's daughter and, elsewhere, 'a scion of the first Alun.' Hence the poem that supposedly relates to the first earls of Lennox records that Alwin II was the son of Mureadhach whose wife was the daughter of Alwin I. This is wrong. The relationship between Alwin I and Alwin II was explicitly stated in contemporary charters in Glasgow. Alwin II was the son and heir of Alwin I.²⁷ These early earls of Lennox could not have commissioned the poem as they would not have accepted the glaring error. This is, as Thomas Owen Clancy stated above, a fabricated legend. While it may have some literary value, its usage as a historical source of the first earls of Lennox should be permanently shelved.

Turning to the early 15th century genealogy, Cynthia Neville notes that it was commissioned by Duncan, Earl of Lennox and that it is otherwise known as MS 1467 held at the National Library of Scotland.²⁸ In the 19th century, this genealogy was brought to light by William Skene in his *Celtic Scotland: A history of ancient Alban* citing T.C.D. H.1.7 and MS 1467.²⁹ His version is as follows:

²³ Skene, William F. *Celtic Scotland: A history of ancient Alban*. Edinburgh: David Douglas, 1880. Volume III: Land and People, p. 117-119, 351, 359-361, 454-455, 475.

²⁴ Skene, William F. *Celtic Scotland: A history of ancient Alban*. Edinburgh: David Douglas, 1880. Volume III: Land and People, p. 117.

²⁵ Chadwick, Hector Munro. *Early Scotland: the Picts, the Scots & the Welsh of southern Scotland*. London: Cambridge University Press, 1949. p. 96-98. & Sproule, David. "Politics and pure narrative in the stories about Corc of Cashel." *Ériu - Journal of the School of Irish Language*. 36 (1985): p. 11-28.

²⁶ Clancy, Thomas Owen. "A Fragmentary Literature: Narrative and Lyric from the Early Middle Ages." *The Edinburgh History of Scottish Literature*. ed. Ian Brown. Volume 1: From Columba to the Union. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2007. p. 127.

²⁷ *Registrum Episcopatus Glasguensis: Munimenta ecclesie metropolitan Glasguensis a sede restaurata seculo ineunte XII ad reformatam religionem I*. Ed. Cosmo Nelson Innes. Edinburgh: Bannatyne Club, 1843. Volume I: p. 86-88, nos. 101-102

²⁸ Neville, Cynthia J. *Native Lordship in Medieval Scotland: The Earldoms of Strathearn and Lennox, c.1140-1365*. Portland: Four Courts Press Ltd., 2005. p. 212.

²⁹ Skene, William F. *Celtic Scotland: A history of ancient Alban*. 2nd. edition. Edinburgh: David Douglas, 1890. Volume III: Land and People, p. 476.

Genealach Mormaor Leamna Anso Sios	Genealogy of the Mormaers of Lennox Down Here.
Donnchach mac	Duncan (<i>eight earl of Lennox</i>) son of
Baltair mic	Walter (<i>de Fasselane</i>) son of
Amlaimh mic	Awley son of
Donnchach mic	Duncan son of
Amlaoimh og mic	Awley the young, son of
Amlaoimh mor mic	Awley mor, son of
Ailin mic	Ailin (<i>second Earl of Lennox</i>) son of
Ailin mor mic	Ailin mor (<i>first Earl of Lennox</i>) son of
Muireadhaigh mic	Muredach son of
Maoldomhnaigh mic	Maeldovnaigh <i>son of</i>
Maine Leamna mic	<i>Maine Leamna son of</i>
Cuirc mic	<i>Corc son of</i>
Lughaidh	<i>Lughaidh.</i>

Thanks to the efforts of Máire Black and her husband Ronald Black, the genealogy in MS 1467 can be seen online at www.1467manuscript.co.uk. They provide a transcription as well as a translation (no. 20).

First of all, the credibility of the genealogy in MS 1467 is weakened by the fact that it also cites Maine as a son of Corc son of Lughaidh. Regardless, the most remarkable thing is that in MS 1467 the part Skene gave as “mic Ailin mic Ailin mor” is not there. Awley mor is simply given as the son of Muredach! William Skene did not note the omission in MS 1467, but inserted the Ailins so as to fit his own preconceived notions and biases. It is clear that this genealogy is not a source of information on the first two heritable earls of Lennox. Its usage as a historical source for their ancestry should also be permanently shelved.

The 13th century poem by Muireadhach Albanach Ó Dálaigh and MS 1467 are the only two early examples that others have used to suggest that Alwin I and Alwin II were called Ailin or Alun. Since they can't credibly be treated as sources for the ancestry of the first earls of Lennox, then the position that Alwin I and Alwin II had a Gaelic name should be abandoned. Clearly, the charter evidence noted above supports the continued use of Alwin as a proper name for these early earls of Lennox.

©Peter A. Kincaid. All rights reserved.
70 Royal Road
Fredericton, NB
Canada
E3A 4V2
7kincaid@nb.sympatico.ca

3 November 2011.