

# THE UNVANQUISHED GENE

WILLIAM R. RICHELIEU-BLACKBURN



## Book Review

### THE UNVANQUISHED GENE

Written by long-standing Trust member, William Richelieu- Blackburn, this fascinating book looks at the past and present of the Armstrongs - and asks, is it Nature or Nurture that formed the character of this formidable name.

The book starts with the question – 'What is History?' And it answers, 'Always a debateable land'... and that, of course, is something the Armstrongs know all about. It tells us that a people without history remain 'locked in the mentality of an infant who knows neither whence he came nor whither he will go.' It then goes on to examine whether the Armstrongs have been fairly represented by history. Was their reputation as a borderland mafia well-earned, or did they actually deserve a better press?

The book tackles subjects relating to the Armstrongs - those Debateable Lands again and some borderland heroes and villains. More interesting chapters follow - including ones on the Armstrongs of Corbridge Parish and the Armstrong name. Was the Armstrong clan formed by its nature - or was it fashioned by circumstances?

Questions are asked and debated about the family name and nature and the controversy surrounding it. They have, without doubt, been a bloodthirsty lot, but Armstrongs have also put great store on education and development. Over the years they in turn destroyed and created... in spite of their wild Viking genes.

With more than twelve hundred years of recorded history, it is impossible to encapsulate it all - but in this book, William has started a spirited and informed investigation into our large and much travelled clan. A book that zips along with fact, imagination and adventure. It's well worth a read... and is a wonderful idea for a present!

Published by the Trust and beautifully bound in blue rexine, illustrated throughout and with a full colour dust jacket, this book is a quality production.

William Richelieu Blackburn's book, The Unvanquished Gene, can be obtained via the Trust website at [www.armstrongclan.org.uk](http://www.armstrongclan.org.uk) (go to the shop book section)

or from Jennifer Armstrong, telephone **0115 9894216**

email: [armstrong@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:armstrong@dsl.pipex.com)

The Clan Armstrong Trust Museum at Langholm,  
(Re-opens Easter 2006). Telephone 013873

**Cost — £12.60 incl post and packing. (\$22.50)**