

Andrew Carnegie was so appreciative of the education that he received from his uncle George that he gifted a college to his hometown and named it in his honour—only for the college to re-name the college against the wishes of Lauder descendants.

See below:

The Courier, 06 September 2007.

Family unhappy with college plan to change name

A DIRECT descendant of George Lauder has opposed the decision to change the name of Lauder College in Dunfermline to Carnegie College.

College chiefs believe naming the college after Dunfermline's famous philanthropist will enhance its global reputation and prevent the confusion caused by people assuming it is located in the border town of Lauder.

It is now up to the Scottish Government to grant final approval on November 30.

Although many may not instantly recognise George Lauder's name, he was the uncle and mentor of Andrew Carnegie and a campaigner for education in the west Fife town.

When Carnegie founded the college in 1899 he named it after him.

The college secured "almost unanimous" support for the proposed name change in consultation over the summer.

However The Courier has obtained a copy of an Email sent on Saturday by Lauder's great-great-grandchild, William Garner, of Washington DC.

In it, Mr Garner said changing the name of the college would be contrary to his "personal views and to the consensus views of all us 24 cousins who are the only great-great-grandchildren of George Lauder."

He also wrote that a statement made by Professor Bill McIntosh in a local newspaper indicating that he supported the move was "totally fabricated."

It is understood Mr Garner has been in touch with Lauder College, but a spokesman for the college refused to comment on the matter yesterday.

Dunfermline-born Carnegie, who lived from 1835 to 1919, made his fortune in the steel industry in America.

Professor McIntosh said changing the college's name would help Dunfermline reclaim ownership of the Carnegie "brand."

He said, "The introduction of the new brand will give us the opportunity to tell the story of Andrew Carnegie and the important influence that George Lauder had over his early years, as a mentor, teacher and friend.

"We plan to retain our rich heritage and develop new and interesting initiatives both locally and globally using the most modern of technologies, to ensure that the name of George Lauder lives on here and abroad.

"We have progressed some early work on this and have some exciting propositions to share with the Lauder family members at a forthcoming meeting in New York during October."

Graham Bowstead, chairman of Lauder's board of management, said, "During the summer we consulted with almost 1000 individuals, with over 96% of respondents in favour of a change of name.

"Within the education sector there is unanimous support from colleges and universities, with many principals and chief executives believing that the Carnegie name will only enhance further the global recognition of this college and the Scottish education system."

Councillor Neil Crooks added, "If you had not said that George Lauder was Andrew Carnegie's uncle, I would not have known.

"However the names Dunfermline and Carnegie are as synonymous as bacon and eggs."

[Email](#) the Editor with your views