

# Clan MACPHERSON



## ARMS

Parted per fess Or and Azure, a lymphad of the First. Sails furled, oars in actin and tacking all Proper, flag and pennon flying Bules, in dexter canton a dexter hand fessways couped holding a dagger erect, in sinister canton a cross crosslet fitchée all of the Third

## CREST

A cat sejant Proper

## MOTTO

Touch not the cat but a glove

## SUPPORTERS

Two Highlandmen in short tartan jackets and hose of the tartan of the House of Cluny-Macpherson, helmets on their heads, dirks at their left sides, and targets on their exterior arms, their thighs bare, and their shirts tied between them

## STANDARD

The Arms in the hoist and of two tracts Or and Azure, upon which is depicted the Crest three times along with the Slughorn 'Creag Dhu' in letters Or upon tow transverse bands Gules, accompanied by two sprigs of heather Proper in the fly

## PLANT BADGE

 White heather

**T**his is a name derived from the Gaelic, 'Macaphersein', meaning 'son of the parson'. The old Celtic church had married clergy, and the Clan Macpherson is believed to have been founded by Muireach (or Murdo) Cattenach, who was a priest of Kinussie in Badenoch. The Macphersons formed part of the great Clan Chattan Confederatin. In the first half of the ninth century, Clan Chattan was led by a chief called Gille Chattan Mor, one of whose sons was forcibly resettled in Lochaber by Kenneth Macalpine around 843. The chief would appear to have been named in honor of St Cattan, and may have been the lay prior of Ardchattan in Lorn.

Macpherson tradition has it that in 1309 Robert the Bruce proposed granting the lands of Badenoch to the chief of the Macphersons (perhaps Ewan Ban MacMhuirich), on condition that he destroyed Bruce's enemies, the Comyns. They carried out the king's wishes with alacrity. Ewan Ban had three sons: Kenneth of Clunie, Iain of Pitmain and Gillies of Invereshire, and the Macphersons are sometimes know as the Clan of the Three Brother.

In 1370, a raiding party of Camerons lifted cattle from the Clan Chattan lands. They were confronted at the junction of the Rivers Spey and Truim at Invernahavon by the Macphersons, Mackintoshes and Davidsons. An Argument arose between the Macphersons and the Davidsons as to who should take the right wing, traditionally the place of seniority or honor. Mackintosh adjudicated in favor of the Davidsons, whereupon the Macphersons refused to take part in the battle. The Camerons were apparently gaining the upper hand when the Mackintosh sent his bard, posing as a Cameron, to taunt the Macphersons for cowardice. The Macphersons soon charged into battle, and the Camerons were routed. The feud between Clan Chattan and the Camerons continued for many years. In 1396 a battle of champions was fixed to beheld on the North Inch of Perth before Robert III and his whole court, and Sir Walter Scott gave a vivid description of this bizarre encounter in *The Fair Maid of Perth*.

Andrew Macpherson, reckoned as the eight chief, acquired the abbey-castle grange in Strathisla in 1618. His son, Euan, was a great royalist, and fought with Montrose during the civil war. Duncan Macpherson of Cluny, the tenth chief, lost his claim to lead Clan Chattan in 1672 when the Privy Council and the Lord Lyon, King of Arms, ruled I favor of a Mackintosh. As Duncan had no sons, he was succeeded as chief of the Macphersons by Lachlan Macpherson, fourth Laird of Nuid, in 1722.

His son, Euan of Cluny, became a famous Highland leader in the Forty-five. During the retreat from Derby he defeated a numerically superior force at Clifton Moor in West-morland. After the defeat at Culloden, Cluny was able, through the faithful support of his clansmen, to escape capture by Hanoverian troops for nine years, despite a reward of £1,000 for his capture. He finally escaped to France in 1755.

William Macpherson the Purser, ancestor of the present chief, was killed at Falkirk in 1746. The purser's nephew, James Macpherson of Balavil witnessed the redcoats burn Cluny's Castle in 1746. He was the publisher of the supposed translation of the Gaelic poet Ossian, in 1761. The authenticity of the poetry was doubted by contemporaries, but it was hugely popular: a copy was carried by Napoleon Bonapart throughout all his campaigns. The Emperor also commissioned a painting based on the Ossianic legends for his state apartments in Rome.

Duncan Macpherson of Cluny, 'Duncan of the Kiln', was born in 1748 while his mother took refuge in a corn kiln. He accepted the ultimate defeat of the Jacobites, and fought for the government during the American Wars of

Independence. The Macpherson estates were returned to him in 1784, twenty years after his father's forfeiture. Due to a faulty lease and debts incurred by a son, the Cluny estate was bankrupt by the end of the nineteenth century. Macphersons, however, continued to serve the country in many parts of the world, and thanks to the co-operation of clan members, the principal relics of the chiefs were purchased at an auction in 1943. These form the basis of the clan museum. The present chief is possibly the first to sit as a judge of the High Court in England, but his seat is a handsome castle in Blairgowrie.

*Taken from "Scottish Clan & Family Encyclopedia", by Collins, HarperCollins Publishers 1994*

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**Clan MAC PHERSON Septs**

ALLASON	CURRIE	GOWIN(S)	MAC CLEARIE,-Y
ALLISON	ELLICE	GUAN	MAC CLEERIE,-Y
ARCHBELL	ELLIS	LACLISE	MAC CLEISH
ARCHBOLD	ELLISON	LAKEY, -IE	MAC CLERICH,-K
ARCHIBALD	ESB(E)Y,-IE	LARRIE, - Y	MAC CLISH
ARCHIBALDSON	ESPL(E)Y,-IE	LARY	MAC CLURI(E)CH
ARCHIE	FERSEN,-ON	LEA(S)	MAC CLURKIN
ARCHIESON	GALLESPIE,-Y	LEAKIE,-Y	MAC COUN
BADDENACH	GELLESPIE,-Y	LEARIE	MAC COURICH,-K
BADENACH	GILES	LEARY	MAC CUR(R)ICH
BADENOCH	GILLES	LECKIE,-Y	MAC CURRACH, -GH
BALDIE	GILLESPIE,-Y	LEES	MAC CURRICH
BALDI SON	GILLESPISON	LEESON	MAC CURRIE,-Y
BALDSON	GILLICE	LEISHMAN	MAC ELEARIE,-Y
BALDY	GILLIES	MAC ALARY	MAC FERSON
CAN(AN)ICH	GLENGARRY GILLIS	MAC ALEARIE,-Y	MAC GAHAN
CANANACH	GLAS(H)BY,-IE	MAC ALEERIE, - Y	MAC GAN(N)
CLARK (E)	GLASPEY,-IE	MAC ARCHIE	MAC GAUNE
CLEARY,-IE	GOHAN	MAC BURRICH,-K	MAC GAVIN
CLUNIE	GOUDIE,-Y	MAC CANANACH	MAC GAWN
CLUNY, -IE	GOULDIE,-Y	MAC CARSON	MAC GILLY
CLUSBY,-IE	GOW	MAC CHLEARIE,-Y	MAC GILLESPIE
CLUNIE	GOWAN(S)	MAC CLAIR(E)	MAC GILLICH
CLUNY, -IE	GOWDIE,-(E)Y	MAC CLARE	MAC GILLIS
CLUSBY,-IE	GOWE	MAC CLARIE,-Y	MAC GLEISH
CURR(E)Y	GOWEN(S)	MAC CLEAR	MAC GOHAN

MAC GOUN	MAC KURRICH,-K	MAC LUNIE, -Y	MACOWAN, -EN
MAC GOVAN, -EN	MAC LAIR(E)	MAC LURKEN,-IN	MAGEOWN
MAC GOW	MAC LARE	MAC MURDO	MAGOWAN,-EN,-IN
MAC GOWAN,-EN	MAC LARKEN	MAC MURDOCH	MURDO
MAC GOWIN(S)	MAC LARKIN (S)	MAC MURDOW	MURDOCH, -CK
MAC GOWNE	MAC LARY	MAC MURRICH, -K	MURDOCH SON
MAC ILLIES	MAC LEAR	MAC PHEARSON	MURDOSON
MAC KEITCH	MAC LEARIE,-Y	MAC PHEDRAN,-ON	MURTAGH
MAC KEITH	MAC LEECE	MAC PHORSAN	PARSON(S)
MAC KETH	MAC LEERY,-IE	MAC SMITH	PEARS (T)ON
MAC KLERICH	MAC LEES	MAC UR(R)ICH	PERSTON
MAC KLURICH	MAC LEESH	MAC VAIL(E)	PHAULL
MAC KOAN(E)	MAC LEISH	MAC VRIC(K)	SMITH
MAC KOW	MAC LERIE,-Y	MAC VUR(R)ICH	SMYTH
MAC KURRICH,-K	MAC LES(E)	MAC VURIST	UR(R)ICH
MAC LAIR(E)	MAC LESH	MAC WAR(R) ISH	VURICH
MAC LARE	MAC LISE	MAC WIRRICH	VURIST
MAC LARKIN (S )	MAC LISH	MACKMURDO	

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