

Clan ALAN



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| ARMS | A gold shield with a red fess between three oak leaves |
| CREST | Not available |
| MOTTO | Petite alta (He seeks high things) |

ALAN, Allan, Allien. This name in Scotland is of twofold origin: (1) from the Old Gaelic name *Ailene* or *Ailin*, from *ail* ‘rock’, seen in the old name of Dumbarton. From this source comes *Alwyn*, the name of the first earls of Levenax, early confused with Old English *Aelwin*. (2) from the Breton through New French *Alan*. Alan or Alain Fergant was one of the leading Bretons who accompanied William the Conqueror to England. The oldest form of the name, on tenth century Breton coins, seems to be *Alamnus*, though is also found *Alanus* in the same century. Alan, king of Brittany, is mentioned in *Brut y Twysogion* under 683. The form *Alamnus* points to *Alemannus*, the Germanic tribal name meaning ‘all men.’ as the source of the personal name. The name became a popular one in Scotland from its occurrence in the family of the Stewards. Alan, son of Waldeve witnessed charters, by King David I, 1139. Alanus, brother of Galfridus Redberd witnessed sale of a tenement in Perth, 1219, and Alanus, capellanus Willelmi Cumyn, comes de Buchan, 1221. Aleyn fitz Maucolum of Berwicshire and John fiz Aeyn, burgess of Montrose, rendered homage, 1296. Loughlan le fiz Aleyn, son-in-law of Alexander of Argyll, was received to the king of England’s peace in 1301. Duncan Alowne was admitted burgess of Aberdeen 1446. Henry Alane was clerk of accounts of the king’s household in 1490. Henry Alane was archdeacon of Dunblane, 1498. Thomas Ailen in Jedburgh, 1641. The Allans of Bute, who appear also in record as Callan, Callen, Macallan, and Maccallan, are properly Macallans. Bearers of the name Allan are permitted by grace of the sartorial fraternity to wear the tartan of Macdonald of Clan Ranald, or, alternatively, that of Clan Macfarlane. Alen, Alene (1565), Allane (1554), Alland, Allone.

Taken from *Surnames of Scotland*, by Black. The New York Public Library.

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