

# Clan BLACK

<b>ARMS</b>	A silver shield with a black saltire between a red star above and a crescent below and a red chief.
<b>CREST</b>	Not available
<b>MOTTO</b>	Non crux sed lux (Not the cross, but the light).



**T**his popular Ulster name, most common in counties Antrim, Armagh, Tyrone and Down, is mainly of Scottish and English origin. If English, the name derives from either the Old English *blæc* meaning “black”, or the Old English *blác*, meaning “white”, “bright” or “pale”. In theory *blác* should give the name Blake, but a lot of intermingling of its use occurred, which is now impossible to unravel. However, most Ulster Blacks are of Scottish and distinctly Gaelic origin and can belong to Clan Gregor, Clan Lamont, or Clan Maclean of Duart. Clan Gregor and Clan Lamont were each ‘broken’ at different times and forbidden to use their clan names. In each case, one of the alternative names they chose was Black. Black was particularly popular with the Lamont’s, as one of the main clan septs was the clan Mhic Gillie Dhribh, ‘son of the black lad’.

While many of the Ulster Blacks arrived in the post-plantation period, many particularly in north Antrim, on Rathlin Island and in the Glens, arrived from the west and south Highlands. It is thought that these are of the Clan Lamont MacGille Dhruibh family.

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

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