



Clan DALLAS

ARMS
CREST
MOTTO

A silver shield with a blue bend between three red stars.

Not available

Semper paratus (Always prepared).

From the old barony of the same name in Moray. The first of the family was Willelmus de Rypeley, an Englishman, who obtained a grant or confirmation of the lands of Dolays Mykel from William the Lion. Archebaldus de Doleys appears as a juror on an inquisition on the lands of Mefth in 1262. William de Doles witnessed a charter by Malcolm de Moravia of the lands of Lamabride to his son, William de Moray c. 1278, and c. 1284 he witnessed another charter as Wiliam de Dolays, knight, and in 1286 witnessed the gift by Hugh Herock to the church of Elgin. He is probably the William de Dolays, sheriff of Forres, who appears in 1292. In 1429 we have mention of the lands of John de Dolas, and six years later William Dolasse appears as procurator in Brechin. Henry Dolas, a native of Arbroydt, had letters of denisation in England in 1475, Duncan Dolace was a tenant of the bishop of Aperdeen in 1511, and William Dollas and Hew Dollace were tenants of Ballachtrechin in Islay in 1686. Dallass 1655, Dallyas 1510, Dolles 1512.

“It has always been supposed, from the name and location of the family, that it was of native Celtic origin, and that it was lineally descended from the Mackintoshes. The more commonly accepted view, however, is that it was a small but independent clan affiliated to Mackintoshes or to Clan Chattan. In Adam’s *What is my tartan?* It is definitely stated that Dallas is dependent upon Mackintosh, and similar statements are to be found elsewhere. The available facts are, however, insufficient to substantiate the idea of dependence. The few notices of the early barons give no indications of close relations with Clan Chattan, and in later times the Dallases are found much more intimately associated with the lairds of Cawdor and Kilravock than with the Mackintoshes. In 1513 Henry Dallas of Cantray joined with the Mackintoshes in what is known as the second heirship of Petty, but his being married to a daughter of John Keir Mackintosh of Rothiemurchus might well account for the part he took in the affair. Again, in a ‘contract of appointment betwixt the Laird of Calder and M’intoshes’ in 1581, Alexander Dallas of Budgate is mentioned as one of the ‘kin’ of Lachlan Mackintosh of Dunachten, but he too was married to a Mackintosh, which may account for the relationship. Other instances of kinship or of friendship might be cited in support of the contention that the Dallases were affiliated to Clan Chattan, Dallas of Cantray and some of his kinsmen served with the Mackintosh Regiment on the disastrous field of Culloden, but these facts seem hardly sufficient to establish the position that the Dallases, like the Macgillivrays, Macbeans, Macqueens, and others, were incorporated in the great Celtic Clan Chattan”.

The System of Stiles, by George Dallas, published in 1697, was “the earliest book to bear upon its title-page the name of Dallas.”

Taken from “The Surnames of Scotland”, by George Black, The New York Public Library.

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