



Clan DAVIDSON

ARMS

Quarterly, 1st & 4th, Argent, on a fess Azure, between a dexter hand couped accompanied by two pheons in chief and a pheon in base Gules, a buck lodged Or (Davidson); 2nd & 3rd, Argent, a wolf's head erased Or, armed and langued Gules (Bayne of Tullock)

CREST MOTTO

A stag's head erased Proper

Sapienter si sincere (Wisely if sincerely)

This family had bonded with the Clan Chattan in the early part of the fourteenth century when Donald, the third son of Robert Comyn and grandson of the Comyn murdered by Robert the Bruce at Dumfries, married Slane Mackintosh, daughter of the sixth Mackintosh Chief. David is recorded by Macfarlane as being Slane's son and his family and their followers were known as Clan Dhai, as the name of Comyn was prescribed around 1320. Thomas Comyn or Cumming, son of Donald's elder brother, was exempted from the prescription and gave rise to the Cummings of Altyre and their cadets. The Davidsons, or Clan Dhai, are recorded in Macfarlane's account of *Genealogies of the Family of Mackintosh*, as being virtually wiped out as a fighting force at the Battle of Invernahaven in 1370. At Invernahaven the Mackintoshes, along with their Clan Chattan supporters, the Davidsons and the Macphersons, gathered to oppose a strong force of Camerons who had marched into Badenoch intent on slaughter and plunder. A dispute arose between the Davidsons and the Macphersons concerning the right to command and when the Mackintoshes supported the Davidson's claims the Macphersons, considering themselves insulted, left the field. The Camerons exploited their enemies' confusion, and in the ensuing battle the Davidsons seem virtually to have been destroyed. The Macphersons were goaded into joining the fray, and the Camerons were ultimately put to flight. Later historians attribute another battle of these clans, held on the North Inch of Perth in 1396, to a conflict between the Clan Dhai and the Macphersons, based upon Lowland accounts of 'Clan Claci or Clan Clanquevil' opposing Clan Chattan. However, by the sixteenth century accounts of the battle clearly stated the participants to be Clan Chattan and Clan Cameron, with the bulk of the evidence pointing to the inclusion of the rival Davidsons and Macphersons in the Clan Chattan forces, all fighting their old and continuing enemies, the Camerons. It has been said that after the Battle of North Inch the family of the chief of the Davidsons moved north and gave rise to the Davidsons of Cantray and Tulloch. There is little doubt that well before the end of the fourteenth century the name Davidson is recorded in the east and north-east coastal towns of Perth, Dundee and Aberdeen. The best recorded is the alderman and customary of Aberdeen (collector and distributor of the royal dues and taxes in the town), Sir Robert, named variously as Davisooun and David Filius in civic records of the day. In 1411, he led a contingent from the burgh to fight at the Battle of Harlaw, where he was killed. He was a friend of the Earl of Mar, a son of the Wolf of Badenoch, and some evidence suggests the possibility that Robert could have been a son or grandson of the first Comyn, David. By the sixteenth century the name could be found from Aberdeen in the north to Ayr in the south, and was associated with either the early armorial motif of a running deer transfixed through the body with an arrow, or the more stylized three arrow heads with a lying deer, all pointing to actual supposed common stock and origin. There are no records of Davidsons holding property in the easternmost and oldest-established part of Cromarty before a Donald Davidson and an Alexander Davidson are listed in July 1670 as 'in the council', and probably living in the new town of Cromarty, suggesting, according to local historians, that they were not an established burgh family prior to the mid seventeenth century. There was a family of Davidsons at Samuelston in the Borders, and references to those of that name can be found along with Elliots, Robsons and Turnbells, as wild and unruly families in the debatable lands. Alexander Davidson was known as Clerk Davidson, and was the town clerk and a writer in Fortrose. He married on 25 November 1689 Elizabeth Bremner, second daughter of a burgher of Fortrose. Alexander had two sons: Henry, first Laird of Tulloch, who became a merchant in London and was succeeded by his brother, Duncan, who became a Member of Parliament. He was a great favorite of Queen Victoria, whom he used to visit during her stays at Balmoral. He was her Lord Lieutenant of Ross-shire. Tulloch Castle was extensively restored in 1922 by the renowned architect Sir Robert Lorimer, but the castle and estates have since been sold. However, it still stands as a focal point for Davidson traditions, along with other relics such as the suit of armor of the Provost of Aberdeen killed at Harlaw, which is still preserved by the City Council. Only a few stones mark the site of Invernahaven. The Clan Davidson Association, first formed in 1909, had been inactive for some time until it was revived recently and now vigorously seeks to unite Davidsons throughout the

world. A direct descendent of the Davidsons of Tulloch, now living in New Zealand, is seeking to matriculate arms in the Court of the Lord Lyon and claim the chiefship.

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Clan DAVIDSON Septs

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|-------------|----------|---------------|------------------|
| DAVEY | DEAN(E)S | KAY (E) | MAC DEE |
| DAVID | DEASON | KEAY | MAC DESON |
| DAVIDSON | DEE(S) | MAC CAVAT(T) | MAC DEVITT |
| DAVIDSON | DESSON | MAC DADE | MAC JESSICK,-OCK |
| DAVIE(S) | DEVETTE | MAC DAID | MAC JISSICK |
| DAVIE(S)SON | DEWIS | MAC DAGNIE,-Y | MAC KAY(E) |
| DAVIS | DEY(S) | MAC DAID | MAC KEVIT(T) |
| DAVISON | DOVE | MAC DAVID | SLORA |
| DAW(E)(S) | DOW | MAC DAVIS | SLORIE,-Y |
| DAWSON | DYE | MAC DAVIT(T) | |
| DAY(S) | DYESON | MAC DAW(E) | |
| DEA(S) | DYSON | MAC DAW(E)Y | |

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