



CLAN FERGUSSON

ARMS

CREST

MOTTO

On compartment Ut prosim aliis (That I may be of use to others)

SUPPORTERS (on a compartment embellished with poplar seedlings) Two gryphons Or, armed and beaked Gules

STANDARD

The Army of Fergusson of Kilkerran in the hoist and of two tracts Or and Azure, upon which is depicted the Badge in the first and third compartments and the Crest in the second compartment along with the Motto 'Dulcius ex asperis' in letters Azure upon two transverse bands Argent

BADGE

A thistle Proper and a poplar sprig, both slipped Proper, surmounted of an estoil of six rays waved Argent, and in chief thereof a bee volant, the wings expanded Proper

The sons of Fergus have spread across Scotland, from Ross-shire in the north to Dumbriesshire in the south-west. The Gaelic patronymic, 'MacFhaerghuis', is translated alternatively as 'son of the angry' or 'son of the bold and proud'. Although tradition seeks to attribute a common ancestry to the various distinct families bearing this name, there is no real evidence to support this. Indeed, the heraldry of the chiefly family is quite different from other examples relating to families of the same name. The Argyllshire Fergussons claim descent from Fergus Mor mac Erc, a very early king of the Scots of Dalriada. The boars' heads which appear on most shields of this family indicate a connection with the early Scots of Dalriada, who came from Ireland across Argyll. There is evidence linking the Fergussons living in Ayrshire and Dumfries with Fergus, Prince of Galloway an important figure in the reigns of David I and Malcolm IV. He restored the church at Whithorn, founded the Abbey of Dundrennan and died in the Abbey of Holyrood in 1161. The Earls of Carrick descended from this Fergus.

The Fergussons held the lands of Kilkerran, probably from the twelfth century, but the first certain record is John Fergusson of Kilkerran in 1464. He may have been descended from John, son of Fergus, one of the witnesses to charter of Edward Bruce signed at Turnberry shortly after the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. By 1600 there were Fergussons all over the southern part of Carrick, all of whom acknowledged Kilkerran as their chief. They sided with the Kennedys in their feud with the Lairds of Bargany and were part of the Earl of Cassillis's band in the skirmish around Maybold in 1601 when Bargany met his death.

The Ayrshire Fergussons adopted the Protestant faith during the Reformation. Sir John Fergusson of Kilkerran fought for the royalist cause in the civil war. The Kilkerran estates fell heavily into debt and it fell to one of Sir John's grandsons to restore the family fortunes. Sir John Fergusson, born around 1653, became a distinguished lawyer and a member of the Faculty of Advocates in 1681. He was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia in November 1703. His son, James, became a judge of the Supreme Court in 1735 with the title, 'Lord Kilkerran'. General Sir Charles Fergusson of Kilkerran, seventh Baronet, served in the army for almost forty years. His early career took him in 1895 to Egypt and later to the Sudan. In 1914 he was the youngest major general on the army list. He served throughout the First World War and was later military governor of Occupied German territory. From 1924 to 1930 he was Governor General of New Zealand. The present chief still lives at the splendid Kilkerran House in Ayrshire.

The Fergussons of Dunfallandy may well have a quite separate descent, but their heraldry proclaims them as cadets of the principal house of which Kilkerran is the recognized head. They have supporters which mark them out as a principal branch of importance. The lands of Dunfallandy and the house which still bears this name lie near Pitlochry in Atholl. Atholl Fergussons appear in the Act of Suppression drawn up by the Privy Council in 1587, and Dunfallandy was ordered to give security for the good behavior of his followers. They were ardent Jacobites who came out in both the Fifteen and the Forty-five. Dunfallandy himself was captured and was fortunate to escape execution at Carlisle in 1746. General Archibald Fergusson of Dunfallandy served in India under the East India Company for many years. He was wounded at the Battle of Seringapatam in 1799. In 1812 he rebuilt Dunfallandy House, where his descendants lived until very recently.

Other distinguished branches of the family include the Fergussons of Pitfour, one of whom became a High Court judge in 1765 with the title of 'Lord Pitfour'. His son, Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Fergusson, invented the first

breach loading rifle used by the British army and patented in 1776. Ronald Fergusson of Raith, Viscount Novar, was MP for Leith from 1886 to 1914, when he was appointed Governor General of Australia. His ancestor, General Sir Ronald Fergusson, was a distinguished soldier who was praised by the Duke of Wellington for his gallantry during the Peninsular War of 1808-14, and is perhaps now best known for the famous double portrait of him and his brother, Robert, in the uniform of the Royal Company of Archers (the monarch's bodyguard in Scotland). The Fergussons were not, however, without culture, and Robert Fergusson, who died in 1774, was the poet most admired by Robert Burns, who venerated his work and took it as his model

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Clan FERGUSON Septs

AIDIE,-Y	FERRIE(S),-Y(S)	MAC CHAD(D)IE,-Y	MAC KERRA
FARGASON	FERRIS(S)	MAC FAIRESH	MAC KERRAS, - I S
FARGIE,-Y	FORGUS	MAC FEARGUS	MAC KERRS
FERGIE	FURGURSON	MAC FERGUS	MAC KERSEY,-IE
FERGUS	HARDIE	MAC FERRIES	MAHAD(D)IE,-Y
FERGUSON	MAC ADDIE,-Y	MAC KAD(D)IE,-Y	VARGUS
FERGUSON	MAC CAD(D)IE,-Y	MAC KEDDIE,-Y	VERGUS

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