



Clan FLETCHER

ARMS	Sable, a cross flory between four escallops Argent
CREST	Two naked arms issuant proper, shooting an arrow out of a bow sable
MOTTO	Dieu our nous (God for us)
SUPPORTERS	Two griffins Proper

The name Fletcher is derived from the French *flechier* – an arrow maker. The word was such a common trade name that it became used in Gaelic as *fleisdear*. In the eighteenth century, some families went full circle and anglicized the name Mac-an-leistear back into Fletcher. One band of Mac-an-leistear settled in Glenorchy in Argyll sometime after the 11th century and became arrow makers to the MacGregors. Small groups of Mac-an-leisters settled in glens belonging to other clans, for whom they presumably made arrows. The earliest recorded chief was Angus Mac-an-leister, who was born around 1450. Duncan Campbell of Glenorchy coveted the Mac-an-leister lands, and as he was high in the favor of James VI, he had royal authority to maintain a large band of armed retainers which he employed in a campaign of violence and intimidation. He deliberately provoked a dispute with the chief of the Mac-an-leisters, and trumped up a charge of murder against him. Mac-an-leister was compelled to sign a deed ceding his family lands to the Campbells and thereafter they were only tenants in Glenorchy.

Archibald, the ninth chief, led the Mac-an-leisters in the first Jacobite rising in 1715. His younger brother, John, called them out again in the Forty-five, although his brother, the chief, provided some men for the Hanoverian forces under his Campbell landlords, thereby avoiding forfeiture.

Andrew Fletcher of Saltoun, ‘the Patriot’, was one of the fiercest opponents of political union with England. Born in 1653, he became MP for Haddington in 1678. He was forced to flee to Holland after joining Monmouth’s rebellion against James VII. He became the leader of the Anti-Union Country Party in the last Scottish Parliament, predicting that England would ruin Scotland’s economy.

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Clan FLETCHER Septs

FLETCHER
MAC INLESTER

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