



Clan KENNEDY

ARMS	Argent, a chevron Gules between three cross crosslets fitchée Sable, all within a double tressure flory counterflory Gules
CREST	A dolphin naiant Proper
MOTTO	Avise la fin (Consider the end)
SUPPORTERS	Two swans Proper, beaked and membered Gules

Cunedda, a chieftain of the Votdini tribe of Lothian, was sent by the Saxon leader, Vortigern, to southwest Scotland to establish settlements intended to resist Picto-Scottish sea raids. These settlements spread down the west coast as far as north Wales. In the Celtic language, Cunedda was rendered as Cunneidigh (meaning ugly or grim-headed), and the name gradually became especially associated with the district of Carrick in Ayrshire. Gilbert Mac Kenedi witnessed a charter granting lands in Carrick to the abbey at Melrose in the early part of the reign of William the lion, while Gillespie Kennedy is named as seneschal of Carrick in charters during the reign of Alexander II. The Kennedys claimed blood kinship with the Earls of Carrick and supported Bruce in the War of Independence. They were rewarded when Robert II confirmed John Kennedy of Dunure as chief of his name and Baillie of Carrick in 1372. His direct descendent, Gilbert was created Lord Kennedy around 1457 and was one of the regents of the infant James III.

A brother of the first Lord Kennedy, James Kennedy, was one of Scotland's best-loved bishops. He served briefly as High Chancellor of Scotland and was Bishop of Dunkeld, and later Archbishop of St Andrews. At St Andrews he founded St Salvator's College in 1455.

Hugh Kennedy of Ardstinchar served as commander of the Scots mercenary troops who fought for Joan of Arc at the siege of Orleans; hence Joan figures on the arms of Kennedy of Bargany. Sir David, third Lord Kennedy, was created Earl of Cassillis in 1509 and died at Flodden in 1513. The second Earl was murdered in 1527. Gilbert, third Earl, was one of four Scottish commissioners who were poisoned at Dieppe on their return from the marriage of Mary, Queen of Scots to the Dauphin in 1558. He had inherited his title at the age of twelve when one of his first acts was to sign, under duress, the death warrant of Patrick Hamilton, the first Scottish Protestant martyr. The fourth Earl earned an infamous reputation by 'roasting' Alan Stewart, Abbot of Crossraguel, in the black vault of Dunmore in order to obtain tracts of abbey land.

The sixth Earl of Cassillis, John, was Lord Justice General of Scotland from 1649 to 1651. He was a zealous Protestant, as was his son, the seventh Earl, and both were firm supporters of Parliament during the civil war. The Justice General sat in Cromwell's House of Lords. They suffered for their beliefs, but their estates remained largely intact. When the eighth Earl died without heirs there was a three-year court dispute to determine the succession. The House of Lords finally found in favor of Sir Thomas Kennedy of Culzean in preference to William, Earl of March and Ruglan. Sir Thomas's brother, David, an advocate, succeeded him in 1775 as tenth Earl, and was an active improver. He commissioned the architect Robert Adam to build the castle at Culzean, considered to be Adam's masterpiece.

On the death of the tenth Earl the title passed to a kinsman who had settled in America. Captain Archibald Kennedy was an officer in the Royal Navy who held estates in Hoboken in New Jersey and became the greatest property owner in New York. He tried to be neutral during the American War of Independence, and was accordingly mistrusted by both sides. Half of his New York properties were confiscated, including number I, Broadway, which was appropriated by George Washington. His son, the twelfth Earl, was a close friend of the Duke of Clarence, who, on his coronation as William IV, created him Marquess of Ailsa. The second Marquess, Archibald Kennedy, was killed in a hunting accident in 1870. His son succeeded to the title at the age of twenty-two, and after his death in 1938 the family title was borne by each of his three sons in turn.

The Kennedys of Kermuck were hereditary constables of Aberdeen from at least 1413. The family was outlawed in 1652, when the father and son of the family mortally wounded John Frobes of Watertown in a fracas. Captain William Kennedy, who was part Cree Indian, led an expedition to search for Sir John Franklin, the explorer seeking the Northwest Passage between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

The Moray Kennedys came north with the possession of the earldom of Moray by Janet Kennedy and her son by James IV. She was sister to the third Lord Kenndey. The Clan Ulric in Lochager are said by tradition to be descended from Ulric Kennedy, who had fled from Ayrshire because of his lawlessness. These Kenndeys became a sept of the Camerons. Lieutenant General Sir Clark Kennedy of Knockgray served throughout the Peninsular War. At Waterloo in 1815, he was in command of the center squadron of the Royal Dragoons and personally captured the eagle and colors of the 105th Regiment of French Infantry. His arms were augmented to incorporate these honors with the work 'Waterloo'. The fifth Marquess resented Culzean Castle to the National Trust, but the chiefs still live on family land in Ayrshire.

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