



Clan LAMONT

ARMS	Azure, a lion rampant Argent, armed and langued Gules
CREST	A dexter hand couped at the wrist Proper
MOTTO	Ne parcas nec spernas (Neither spare nor dispose)
SUPPORTERS	(on a compartment embellished with crab-apple saplings fruited Proper) Two savages wreathed about the middle with crab-apple fruited, each holding in his exterior hand a club resting on the shoulder Proper
STANDARD	The Arms in the hoist and of two tracts Azure and Argent, upon which is depicted the Crest in the first compartment and the Badge in the second compartment, along with the Slogan 'Arldlamont' in letters Argent upon a transverse band Gules
PINSEL	Azure, bearing upon a Wreath of the Liveries the aforesaid Crest within a strap of leather Proper, buckled and embellished Or, inscribed with the Motto 'Ne parcas nec spernas' in letters Azure, all within a circlet also Or bearing the title 'Lamont of that Ilk' in letters also Azure and ensigned of a chapeau Azure furred Ermine, and in an Escrol Argent, surmounting a sprig of crab-apple fruited Proper this Slogan 'Arldlamont' in letters Gules
BADGE	A sprig of crab apple sipped Proper

A name of great antiquity in south Argyll, where at one time the chiefs were described as 'Mac Laomain Mor Chomhail Uile' – 'The Great MacLamont of All Cowal'. Although some believe the name to be Norman or French, the family almost certainly originated in Ulster. Logmaor, meaning, in old Norse, 'Lawman' or 'Law Giver', became in Gaelic 'Ladhman', and it is from a son of the great O'Neill princes of Tyrone that the chiefs are said to descend. The Lamonts were also one time called Macerchar, from Fearchar, the grandfather of the first Ladhman.

The first certain record of the chiefs is found in charters of the early thirteenth century. Laumanus, son of Malcolm, granted to the monks of Paisley lands at Kilmun, together with the church of Kilfinan. These grants were confirmed in 1270 and again in 1295 by Malcolm, the son of Lanmanus. In 1456 John Lamont is recorded as the Baillie of Cowal. In 1466, probably the same John, now described as Lamond of that ilk, disputed with the monks of Paisley certain rights relating to the lands which had been ceded to them by his ancestor two hundred years before. Later that century the direct line of the chiefs is believed to have failed, and the representation of the family passed to the Lamonts of Inverynie, later styled 'Lamont of Lamont'. They established their chief seats at the strong Castles of Toward and Ascog, which they held until their destruction by the Campbells in the seventeenth century. Sir Iain Moncreiffe of that Ilk, the celebrated twentieth-century herald and historian, asserts that sir John Lyon, who became Thane of Glamis in 1372, was a son of the chiefly house of Lamont. He points out that the Lamont arms bear a silver lion on a blue shield. Such a simple reversal of the color scheme of a coat of arms was a recognized manner of differencing used by cadets.

An incident involving the chief of the Lamonts at the beginning of the seventeenth century is widely quoted by clan historians as a classic example of the Highland laws of hospitality. Lamont is said to have been hunting with some Macgregors when a dispute broke out. Macgregor, the Younger of Glenstray, was stabbed by Lamont, who then fled, hotly pursued by the chief's son's men. Lamont is said to have reached Glenstrae, the home of the Macgregor chief whose son he had just killed. Lamont, claiming he was pursued by enemies, asked for shelter and protection, which Macgregor willingly gave. When his angry clansmen appeared and related the events of the night, the chief refused to allow his guest to be harmed in any way. He had given his word of protection and not even his great personal grief could overcome his sense of honor and obligation.

Sir James Lamont of Lamont, chief of the clan in 1643, was a well-respected and popular leader who was deeply interested in the welfare of his people. He declared for the royalist cause, which brought his clan into direct confrontation with his powerful Campbell neighbors. The Campbells had steadily encroached upon the Lamont's ancient Lordship of Cowal, yet Lamont was initially hesitant to move against the Campbells. After Montrose's great

victory at Inverlochy in 1645, however, the Lamonts laid waste the Campbell lands at Kilmun. In 1646 a powerful Campbell army invaded the Lamont territory and besieged the Castles of Toward and Ascog. Sir James Lamont surrendered the castles, having reached apparently honorable terms with the Campbells. The fortresses were to be handed over but the lives of the Lamonts were to be spared. However, not every chief adhered to his word with the sense of honor of Macgregor of Glenstrae: on the surrender of the castles Sir James was thrown in a dungeon at Dunstraffnage, where he was held in terrible conditions for five years. Over two hundred clansmen, women and children were massacred, and the castles were reduced to ruins. The Lamont massacre was one of the charges brought against the Marquess of Argyll at his trial in 1661 following the Restoration of the Stuart monarchy. The Lamont chief presented a petition to Parliament in person, in which it was narrated that the Campbells acted with inhuman barbarism; one charge that they did 'cause hang upon ane tree near the number of thirty six persons most of them being special gentlemen of the name of Lamont and vassals to Sir James'. Argyll was already doomed for his treason, but the Lamont charges were in many ways more damaging to his reputation as a Highland chief. The Lamonts did not receive compensation, and their star remained eclipsed by their Campbell oppressors, whose power continued to grow unabated. The chiefs took up residence at Ard Lamont, where the last chief to live in Cowal was born in 1845. In 1893 the last of the clan lands were sold and the present chief lives in Australia.

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Clan LAMONT Septs

ALDOWIE,-Y	LAMMIE, -Y	MAC GILLEDOW	MAC SHIRLEY
ALDOWNIE,-Y	LAMOND	MAC GILLEGOWIE	MAC SHURLIE,-Y
BLACK	LAMONDSON	MAC GILLEWIE	MAC SORLEY, -IE
BLACKIE	LAMONE	MAC GLAMYN	MAC SURELY
BLACKY	LAMONT	MAC GOR(R)IE,-Y	MAC SURLIE,-Y
BLAIK(IE) -Y	LANDER(S)	MAC ILDONNIE, -Y	MEEKLEJOHN
BLAKE(Y)	LEMMON(D)	MAC ILDOWNIE, -Y	MEIKLE(H)AM,-EM
BLAKER	LEMON(D)	MAC ILMONIE, -Y	MEIKLEJOHN
BRON	LIMOND,-T	MAC ILMOON	MICHAELJOHN
BROUN(E)	LUCAS	MAC ILMUNIE, -Y	MICKLEJOHN
BROWN(E)	LUCK	MAC ILWHOM	MUN
BURDEN -ON	LUCKIE,-Y	MAC ILZEGOWIE	MUNDIE,-Y
CLEM	LUKE	MAC INTURNER	MUNN
CLEMENT	LYON	MAC KLEM	MUNNIES,-YS
CLOAKIE,-Y	MAC ALDUIE	MAC LAMMIE, -Y	MUNT
CLOGIE,-Y	MAC CALMONT	MAC LAMOND, -T	PADSON
CLOKIE,-Y	MAC CLEM(M)	MAC LAMMIE, -Y	PAT(T)ERSON
CLOAKIE,-Y	MAC CLEMENT (S)	MAC LAMOND, -T	PATRICK
CLOGIE,-Y	MAC CLERMED, - ID	MAC LEMMON	PATTEARSON
CLOKIE,-Y	MAC CLIMAN	MAC LIMANS	PHORICH
DEVER(S)	MAC CLUCK IE, - Y	MAC LUCAS	SORLIE,-EY
DOUGLAS(S)	MAC CLYMOND(S)	MAC LUCKIE, -Y	TOURNER
FOURS IDES	MAC CL YMONT (S)	MAC LUGASH	TOWARD,-T
KILDUFF	MAC DOUGLAS (S)	MAC LUSA	TURNER
L'AMI	MAC ER(R)ACHER	MAC LYMONT	WHITE
LAM(M)ON	MAC FARQUHAR	MAC MUNN	WHYTE
LAMB	MAC FATRICK	MAC PATRICK	
LAMBIE, -Y	MAC FETRICK	MAC PHORICH	

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