



CLAN MACARTHUR

ARMS
CREST
MOTTO

Azure, a Maltese cross Argent, between three antique crowns Or
A greyhound couchant within two branches of bay all Proper
Fide et opera (By fidelity and labor)

The Macarthurs are Celts, and the family of Arthur is one of the oldest clans in Argyll, so ancient that even in remote Celtic times there was a Gaelic couplet which is freely translated, ‘the hills and streams and Macalpine but whence came forth Macarthur?’ The Macarthurs supported Robert the Bruce in the struggle for the independence of Scotland, and their leader, Mac-Ic-Artiair, was rewarded with lands in mid Argyll, which had belonged to those who had opposed the king. Over the years many descendents of Arthur dispersed, some settling in Skye where one family of Macarthurs set up a famous piping school and were for several generations hereditary pipers to the Macdonalds of Sleat. The most celebrated of this family was Charles, who received his piping instruction from Patrick Og Maccrimmon. Another branch of the family became armourers to the Macdonalds of Islay. Two families of Macarthurs came to the fore in the late 1400’s around Loch Awe. There has been a good deal of confusion between the Macarthurs of Loch Awe and the Macarthur Campbells of Strachur on Loch Fyne. The names of some Macarthurs holding prominent positions appear in the fifteenth century in mid Argyll, and by the latter half of the sixteenth century they had gained so much land and power that their neighbors became jealous and Duncan Macarthur and his son were drowned in Loch Awe during a skirmish in 1567. The Earl of Argyll ordered compensation to be made and appointed a nephew, John, son of Finlay, to be leader of the Loch Awe Macarthurs. The direct male line appears to have become extinct in the years around 1780. The Macarthurs of Milton, at Dunoon, had by the middle of the 1680s produced a Baillie in Kintyre and a chamberlain to the Marquess of Montrose in Cowal. The Macarthurs also sought their fortune abroad, and Colonel John Macarthur became military deputy governor of St Kitts in the Caribbean. A large number of the clan, many of whom fought on both sides in the Jacobite risings, left Scotland, particularly after the disaster of Culloden in 1746, eventually to settle in the West Indies, America and Canada. John Macarthur went to New South Wales with the 102nd Regiment and became commandsant at Parramatta until 1804. His son, Arthur, fought in the civil war and was promoted to lieutenant general in the US army, while his son Douglas, became even more well known as the commander of the Pacific Theater in the Second World War. Clan Arthur is at present without a chief, but in 1991 the Lord Lyon appointed James Macarthur of Milton as commander.

Taken from “Scottish Clan & Family Encyclopedia”, by Collins, HarperCollins Publishers 1994

Clan MAC ARTHUR Septs

ARTHUR	MAC ARTHUR	MAC CARTHA	MAC OTTER
ARTHURSON	MAC ARTHUR	MAC CARTHAR,-ER	MAC PHUN(N)
CART	MAC ARTOR	MAC CARTHUS	MAC SIMON
CARTER (Isles)	MAC CAIRTER	MAC CARTIN	MUCKARSIE, -Y
DEWAR	MAC CARSER	MAC CARTUR(E)	MUCKART
MAC ARSIE,-Y	MAC CART(T)	MAC FUN(N)	MUCKERSIE, -Y
MAC ART	MAC CARTA (I)N	MAC GAIRTIE,-Y	PHUN (N)
MAC ART(T)ER	MAC CARTAIR	MAC GARTIE,-Y	
MAC ARTAN	MAC CARTER	MAC INDEOR	

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