



Clan MACBETH

ARMS CREST

A gold fesse between three gold lozenges on a blue shield.

A wyvern holding in the dexter claw a sword in pale proper, the hilt entwined with two serpents argent and vert.

MOTTO

Dabonnair (Graceful),

Malcolm II had murdered so many of his relatives that the crown was bound to pass through a woman, Macbeth of Moray was the legitimate claimant by the law of tanistry. Macbeth ruled from 1040-57.

Macbeth killed Duncan, claimant to the throne, in battle, and did claim the throne for himself both on his own behalf and on that of his wife, and now made himself king in Duncan's place. Macbeth appears, contrary to popular belief, to have been a wise monarch and to have ruled Scotland successfully and well for seventeen prosperous years. In 1050 he went on a pilgrimage to Rome and there and "scattered money among the poor like seed". But seven years later he was defeated and killed by Duncan's elder son, Malcolm, who thus regained for his family his father's throne to which he had never abandoned his claim.

Macbeth was a personal name like Macrae, not a patronymic. It was common in Scotland in early times from the eleventh to the fourteenth century. In old Gaelic it was spelled *Maccbethad*, and means 'son of life,' a religious person, 'man of religion,' or 'one of the elect.' In modern Gaelic the name would be spelled *Macbeatha*. A twelfth-century variant, Malbeth, is found in record as Malbet, Melbeth, Malbeod, Melbec (with t misread as c), Malbij, Melbe and Melbeht. Macbeth (1005-1057), mormaer of Moray, became king of Scots after having murdered King Duncan I at Bothnagowan near Elgin, 14 August 1040. The use he made of his acquired power so far as authentic records show, was generally for the good of his country; while his character, far from being irresolute, was marked by vigor and ability. He was the friend of the poor, the protector of the monks, and the first Scottish king whose name appears in ecclesiastical record as the benefactor of the Church.

So dark was the intrigue surrounding Macbeth that William Shakespeare wrote the memorable play loosely based on the king's life and reign.

Taken from "The Surnames of Scotland", by George F. Black, The New York Public Library and "Scotland- A concise history", by Fitzroy Maclean, Thames and Hudson, 1995.

Clan MAC BETH Septs

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| BAITY | BETHAIR | LEITCH | MAC VE (Y) |
| BATEY | BETHUNE | MAC ABEATHA | MAC VEA |
| BEATH(A) | BETT | MAC BATH | MAC VEAGH |
| BEATON | BETTON | MAC BEATH | MAC VEIGH |
| BEATTIE -Y | LEACH | MAC BETH | MAC VEITH |
| BET | LEECH | MAC ROE | |
| BETH | LEETCH | MAC VAY | |

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