

CLAN MACDOWALL



ARMS CREST

Azure, a lion rampant Argent crowned of a ducal coronet Or (issuant from a crest coronet Or) A lion's paw erased and erected Proper holding a dagger point upwards Proper, hilted and pommelled Or
Vincere vel mori (To conquer or die)

MOTTO SUPPORTERS

(on a compartment consisting of rocks with plant badge, issuing from the sea Proper) Two lions rampant, each gorged of an antique crown Or

STANDARD

Azure, a St Andrew's Cross Argent in the hoist and of two tracts Azure and Argent, upon which is depicted the Badge three times along with the Motto 'Vincere vel mori' in letters Azure upon two transverse bands Or

PINSEL

Argent, with the Crest of MacDowall of Garthland within a strap Azure buckled and furnished Or with the Motto 'vincere vel mori' in letters Or within a circlet Vert and having the name and title 'MacDowell of Garthland' in letters Or and in the fly a sprig of oak Proper surmounted of an Escrol Azure having the Slogan 'Garthland' in letters Argent

BADGE

A lion's paw erased and erect Proper holding a dagger point upwards Proper, hilted and pommelled Or

PLANT BADGE

A spring of oak Proper

A name from Galloway, the district the south-west of Scotland which took its name from the Galli, or Gaelic settlers of the seventh and eight centuries. Fabulous legends exist surrounding the foundation of the principedom of Galloway, and even the scholarly Nisbet could not resist narrating that Dvovall of Galloway killed Nothatus the Tyrant in 230 BC. The royal house of Galloway apparently also resisted the Romans, and Nisbet asserted that from these early deeds the lords charged their shield with a fierce lion royally crowned.

The Lords of Galloway were certainly powerful, scattering their ancient principedom with well-endowed abbeys and priories. Fergus of Galloway, who flourished in the reign of David I, appears to have divided his principedom between his sons. One of his sons, or perhaps a grandson, was called Dougal. The last of the native Lords of Galloway, Alan, died around 1234. His daughter, Devorgilla, had married Balliol, Lord of Barnard Castle. Their son, John, claimed Galloway in right of his mother. He also claimed the throne of Scotland. Balliol, as Lord of Galloway, granted a charter of the lands of Garthland to Dougal in 1295. A year later, Dougal and Fergus M'doual appear on the Ragman Roll of nobles swearing fealty to Edward I of England. Dougal's grandson, Fergus, third of Garthland, was sheriff depute for Kirkcudbright in the reign of David II. His grandson, Sir Fergus Macdowall, the fifth Laird, was taken prisoner by the English at the Battle of Homildon in 1401. Uchtred, the ninth of Garthland, married Isabel Gordon of the branch of that great family who controlled Lochinver. Uchtred and his son, Tomas, were both killed at the Battle of Flodden in September 1513, along with James IV and the flowers of Scottish chivalry.

Dynastic dispute was also to claim the life of John, the eleventh Laird, when he rode to oppose the invading army of Henry VII at Pinkie near Musselburgh in 1547. He had taken the precaution of passing his estates to his son, Uchtred, the twelfth Laird of Garthland, before going to war. This Uchtred was to become implicated in the Raid of Ruthven in August 1582, when the Earl of Gowrie and other Protestant nobles kidnapped the youthful James VI, holding him at Ruthven Castle and later at Edinburgh. The young king tried to maintain his composure in the presence of this threat to his person, but ultimately burst into tear. One of the conspirators, the Master of Glamis, exclaimed, 'No matter for his tears; better children weep than bearded men'. The king later escaped. It is not known what part Uchtred played in the conspiracy, but it was sufficient for him to require a pardon in 1584 and a fresh charter from the king to the barony of Garthland and Corswall. Uchtred's elder son, Uchtred Macdowall of Mondurk, may also have been implicated in treasonous activities and forfeited. He is styled 'of Mondurk', while his younger brother, Thomas, appears in a deed of 1591 as 'apparent of Garthland', indicating that he was expected to succeed to his father's title. However, Uchtred of Mondurk appears eventually to have succeeded, as it was his eldest son, John, who received confirmation as heir to his father's estates in October 1600, and was styled 'fourteenth Laird of Garthland'.

The sixteenth and seventeenth lairds, James and William, were both MPs for Wigtonwshire for much of the seventeenth century. William and his wife, Grizel Beaton, had fourteen children. His grandson, James Macdowall, became Lord Provost of Glasgow. The twenty-first Laird was an advocate at the Scottish Bar. He was elected to Parliament and sat in the House of Commons at Westminster from 1783 until his death in 1810. He was succeeded by his nephew, William, who sold the original Garthland in Galloway, but transferred the name to his estate at Lochwinnoch in Renfrewshire. He and his brother died unmarried, and the title and estate passed to Lieutenant General Day Macdowall. The chiefly family emigrated to Canada at the end of the nineteenth century. Henry, twenty-eighth chief, was called to the Bar in British Columbia in 1920. The present chief still lives in ancient Galloway lands, and supports clan events in this country.

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The Scottish Society of Louisville, Inc.
PO Box 32248
Louisville, KY 40232-2248