Clan MACKINNON

ARMS — Quarterly, 1st, Vert, a boar's head erased Argent, holding in its mouth the shank bone of a deer Proper (Mackinnon); 2nd, Azure, a castle triple-towered and embattled Argent, masoned Sable, windows and portcullis Gules (MacLeod); 3rd, Or, a lymphad oars in saltire Sable; 4th, Argent, a dexter hand couped fessways Proper holding a cross crosslet fitchée Sable (the last two quarters for Macdonald)

CREST — A boar's head erased and holding in its mouth the shank of a deer all Proper

MOTTO — Audentes fortuna juvat (Fortune assists the daring)

On Compartment Cumhnich bas Alpin (Remember the death of Alpin)

SUPPORTERS — Dexter, a lion Proper; sinister, a leopard Proper

The Mackinnons, a branch of the greet Siol Alpin, descendents of Kenneth Macalpin, are of royal descent from Fingon, grandson of Gregor. 'fingon' in Gaelic means 'fair-born'. The clan slogan is 'Cumhnich Bas Alpin', 'Remember the death of Alpin'. Alpin ws slain by Bruch, King of the Picts, in 837. Findanus, the fourth chief, brought Dunakin into the clan around 900 by marrying a Norse princess. The castle, properly called Dun Hakon, was a broch (a circular dry-stone tower) commanding the narrow sound between Skye and the mainland. The enterprising Mackinnons ran a heavy chain across the sound, and levied a toll on all passing ships. King Haakon IV assembled his fleet of longships beneath the castle of his namesake before the Battle of Largs in 1263. His defeat there effectively ended Norse domination of the island. Findanus also held land on Mull.

  The Mackinnons on Arran gave shelter to Robert the Bruce during his time as a fugitive, helping him make his escape to Carrick. After the king's victory at Bannochburn they were rewarded with land on Skye. The chiefs were then styled 'of Strathardale', and lived at Dunringall Castle. Dunakin passed to another branch of the family. A branch of the chiefly family became hereditary abbots of Iona. Fingon, son of Gilbride, was Master of the household to the Lord of the Isles before becoming Abbot of Iona, the crucible of the Celtic church. Known as the Green Abbot, he was a powerful churchman, and lent encouragement to a rebellion against the Lord of the Isles for which his brother, Neil, Gilbride's eldest son, was pout to death. The last hereditary abbot was John Mackinnon, the ninth chief, who was also Bishop of the Isles. He died around 1500.

  The Mackinnons regularly feuded with the Macleans, and incidents flared up from time to time. One encounter in particular provides a good illustration of the Gaelic sense of honor. The Macleans seized some Mackinnon lands on Mull while the chief as visiting in Skye. On learning of the outrage, he gathered his men and discovered that the Macleans were celebrating with a great feast at Ledaig. Ascertaining that the Macleans were all in a drunken stupor, Mackinnon caused his men each to cut and trim a firtree, and plant all of them around the hall. He himself placed one in front of the door along with a naked sword. The next morning the Macleans, seeing they were surrounded by the plant badge of Clan Mackinnon, realized that they could all have been slaughtered, and promptly withdrew from Mackinnon land.

  The Scots kings since the reign of James IV had slowly undermined the power of the island chiefs. In 1606 James VI sent Lord Ochiltree to Mull to make proposals to the chiefs on his plans for government of the isles. When they disagreed with Ochiltree's plans, he seized the chiefs and imprisoned them in castles on the mainland. In 1609, Lachlan Mackinnon of that Ilk and other chiefs were forced to subscribe to the Statutes of Iona, which placed many restrictions upon their power. English ws to become the language of the chiefs and firearms were banned. Despite this, the Mackinnons were loyal to the Stuarts, and fought in the army of Montrose at the Battle of Inverlochy 1645. Their young chief, Lachlan Mor ws, at the time in the custody of Argyll. In 1650, Lachland raised a regiment which fought on the royalist side at the Battle of Worcester in 1651. The chief was created a knight banneret by Charles II on the field of battle.

  The clan remained loyal to the Stuarts in the next century, and sent one hundred and fifty men to join the earl of Mar at the Battle of Sheriffmuir in 1715. For this act the chief was declared forfeit for treason. The Mackinnons were also out during the Forty-five, marching to Edinburgh to join Prince Charles. They fought at Culloden, where the Stuarts dreams of the Crown were crushed. The prince ws sheltered by the Mackinnons in a cave, and Iain Og, who ws over seventy years old, sent for his galley to take the prince to Mallaig, avoiding two Government warships

on the way. He was less fortunate on the return voyage, however, and was captured in Morar. He was incarcerated in a prison ship at Tilbury, where he languished until 1750.

When Iain Og died in 1756, his son, Charles succeeded, but this line died out in 1808. In 1811, William Mackinnon, MP for Dunwich in England, matriculated arms in Lyon Court, showing his descent from Daniel, second son of Sir Lachlan Mor, who had emigrated to Antigua after a quarrel with his father. The new chief was a prominent parliamentarian, and sat for thirty-five years. He ws succeeded by his son, the thirty-fourth chief, who was high sheriff of Kent in 1885. The chief's second son, Sir William Mackinnon, served in the Grenadier Guards, becoming director of recruitment at the War Office during the First World War. He was made a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath and a Knight of the Royal Victorian Order. The present chief is Sir William's granddaughter, Anne Mackinnon.

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Clan MAC KINNON Septs

FINDLAY	MAC CONNON	MAC KINNEY	MAC MO(R)INE
FINLAISON	MAC CUNNIN	MAC KINNING	MAC MOR(R)AN
FINLASON	MAC ENENEY	MAC KINNING(S)	MAC SHARRY, - IE
FINLAY	MAC FAUL(L)	MAC KINNON	MAC SHEERY,-IE
FINLEY	MAC INGAN	MAC KINNOT(T)	MAC SHERRIE,-Y
KINN(E)Y,-IE	MAC INNON	KAC KINVAN	MAC VAUGH
LOVE	MAC KENNAN,-EN,-IN	MAC KINVEN	MACKININ
MAC CIANNAN	MAC KIANNAN	MAC KINVINE	MORREN
MAC CIN	MAC KINNIN	MAC KINZEN	MORRIN