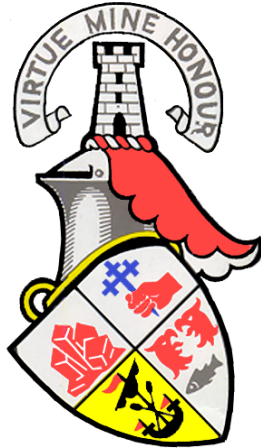


# Clan MACLEAN OF DUART



## ARMS

Quarterly, 1<sup>st</sup>, Argent, a rock Gules; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Argent, a dexter hand fesswise coupé Gules holding a cross crosslet fitchée in pale Azure; 3<sup>rd</sup>, Or, a lymphad, oars in saltire, sails furléd Sable, flagged Gules; 4<sup>th</sup>, Argent, a salmon naiant Proper, in chief two eagles' heads erased respectant Gules

## CREST MOTTO

A tower embattled Argent

Virtue mine hoonour

## SUPPORTERS

Dexter, a seal Proper; sinister, an ostrich with a horse-shoe in its beak Proper

**T**his name in Gaelic is rendered as 'MacGille Eoin', 'son of the servant of St John'. It has also been suggested that there is an alternative derivation from 'leathan', meaning 'broad' or 'broad-shouldered'. However they spell their name, the Macleans descend from Gilleathan Na Tuaidh, Gillean of the Battle-axe. He may well have been the brother of Fergus Macerc, descended from the royal house of Lorn. Gillean fought at the Battle of Largs when the army of the Norwegian King Haakon was defeated, ending the Norse hegemony over the Hebrides in 1263. His son signed the Ragman Roll as Gillemoir Macilyn in 1296, swearing fealty to Edward I of England. Gillemoir's great-grandson, Iain Duh Maclean, settled in Mull. Of his sons, Lachlan Lubanach was progenitor of the Macleans of Duart and Eachainn Raganach (Hector) founded the Maclaines of Lochguie. The other major cadets, the Macleans of Ardgour and Coll, descend from Lachlan. The Macleans of Duart married into the family of John of Islay, the first Lord of the Isles, and it was a match from which they gained great power and prestige. By the end of the fifteenth century, the Macleans owned most of Mull, Tiree, Islay, Jura and Knapdale, with Morvern in Argyllshire and Lochaber.

The politics of the isles were always turbulent, but the Macleans were particularly at odds with the Mackinnons. Lachlan Lubanach's son, Red Hector of the Battles, was a renowned warrior who fought for the Lord of the Isles at Harlaw in 1411. Red Hector and Sir Alexander Irvine of Drum met in single combat. After the duel, in which neither was dishonored, they both died of their wounds. James IV was the first Scottish king seriously to attempt to bring the isles under royal control, and the pragmatic Macleans supported him. Lachlan of Duart was killed with the king at Flodden in 1512.

The rising power of the Campbells in the late sixteenth century brought them into opposition with the Macleans. Intermarriage was a traditional way to avoid unnecessary feuds, and several Campbell marriages were arranged. One went badly wrong when the chief, Lachlan Maclean, married Lady Elizabeth Campbell, daughter of the second Earl of Argyll. The match was not a happy one, and Maclean decided upon drastic action: he marooned her upon a rock, leaving her to drown. She was rescued by passing fishermen who took her to her kin. Maclean was run through in Edinburgh by his wife's brother in 1523.

The Campbells and the Macleans were at least united in their Protestant faith and their dislike of the Macdonalds. Sir Lachlan Mor Maclean harried the Macdonalds of Islay, causing such carnage that, in 1594, he and the Macdonald chief were declared outlaws by the Privy Council. Lachlan redeemed himself when he fought for the king at the Battle of Glenlivet in 1594. He was killed fighting on Islay in August 1598, whereupon his sons took revenge in the form of a massacre which is said to have lasted for three days.

Sir Lachlan Maclean was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia on 3 September 1631. He was passionately devoted to Charles I and called his clan out to join Montrose, who had been appointed the king's captain general. He died in 1649, after which his son, Sir Hector, took up the cause, losing his life at the Battle of Inverkeithing in 1651. This left Hector's four-year-old brother, Alan as the heir. Sir Alan died in 1674, leaving another child to inherit the chiefship. The estates were by now heavily in debt. By 1679 the Campbells had gained possession of Duart and most of the Maclean estates. When the Stuarts once again called for aid against their rebellious subjects, the Macleans chief hurried to their standard. Sir John, the fifth Baronet, fought for James VII at Kiliencrag in 1689. The Campbells had little difficulty in obtaining the rest of the Maclean estates as a reward for their loyalty to the new regime.

The Macleans were out in the rising of 1715, and Sir Hector Maclean was given a Jacobite peerage in 1715. He was exiled in France where he founded, and was the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons in Paris. Sir Hector returned to Edinburgh in 1745 to pave the way for the rising of that year, but he was arrested and was imprisoned in the Tower of London until 1747. He died at Rome in 1750. The clan was led throughout the Forty-five by Maclean of Drimmin, who was killed in the Highland charge at Culloden. Duart Castle fell into ruins, but the chiefs, seeing the Jacobite cause was lost, served their country with distinction. All the chiefs from that time have been soldiers. The eighth Baronet achieved the rank of general, while Sir Fitzroy, the tenth Baronet, fought at the Battle of Sebastopol of 1854-55. Duart was reclaimed by the chiefs in 1911 and has been restored as their set. The father of the present chief was Chief Scot of the Commonwealth and Lord Chamberlain to HM The Queen. He was created a life peer as Lord Maclean of Duart.

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