



Clan MACLENNAN

ARMS	Or, a heart Gules between two passion nails conjoined in base Sable, on a chief Azure a stag's head cabossed between two antique crown, all of the First
CREST	A demi-piper all Proper, garbed in the proper tartan of the Clan MacLennan
MOTTO	Dum spior spero (Wile I breathe I hope)
SUPPORTERS	Two pipers garbed in the tartan of the Clan MacLennan and carrying their bagpipes all Proper
STANDARD	The Arms in the hoist and of two tracts Sable and Or, upon which is depicted the Crest in the first and third compartments and a spring of furze in the second compartment, along with the Motto 'Dum spio spero' in letters Argent upon two transverse bands Vert
PINSEL	Argent, bearing upon a Wreath of the Liveries a demi-piper all Proper garbed in the proper tartan of the Clan within a strap of Leather Proper, buckled and embellished Or, inscribed with the Motto 'Dum spior spero' in letters of the Field all within a circlet Or fimbriated Vert bearing the title 'MacLennan of MacLennan in letters Gules and in the fly an Escrol Gules surmounting a sprig of furze Proper bearing the Slogan 'Druimnan deur' in letters of the Field
PLANT BADGE	Furze

In Gaelic this name is rendered as 'Macgille Finnan', 'son of the follower of St Finnan'. Who St Finnan's disciple truly was is now lost in the mists of time. The history of the MacLennans is made particularly complex by the fact that until 1976 there had not been a recognized chief for over three hundred years.

The MacLennans settled around Kintail, and they were related to the Logans, who also held lands in Easter Ross. (The Logans were to become most prominent in the Lowlands, where they became Barons of Restalrig, near the Port of Leith.) However, other historians have suggested that the original name of the clan was Logan, and that it was not until the fifteenth century that the name MacLennan was adopted. According to this version of the family's origins, Gillegorm Logan led his men towards Inverness to prosecute a feud against the Frasers. Gillegorm was ambushed at Kessock and he and most of his men were slain. The Frasers captured Logan's pregnant wife, intending either to kill the child, or perhaps to raise him as a fosterling, a common Highland method of obtaining influence over a rival clan. The son was born, but was so deformed that he was allowed to live, and was placed with the monks at Beaulieu, entering the church in due course. He disregarded the decree of Pope Innocent III enjoining the celibacy of the clergy, preferring to follow the Celtic practice, and he married and had several children. He was the 'gille finnan', and his sons honored his memory by adopting a new name.

Whatever the truth of this story, the heraldry of the chief proclaims the link between the Logans and the MacLennans, as each bear the heart and passion nails which allude to the pilgrimage of Sir Robert and Walter Logan accompanying the heart of Robert the Bruce to the Crusades. The Expedition, led by Sir James Douglas, never saw the Holy Land. The Scots knights reached Spain, where they were enlisted to fight the Moors. This seemed compatible with their vows, as the Moors were heathens occupying Christian lands. But Douglas was killed in the Battle of Teba, and the crusade came to an abrupt end. The shield also alludes to the MacLennan's connection to the Mackenzies, whose banner was the 'cabairfeidh', so called from the deer's head in the center. The MacLennans, along with the Macraes, were staunch supporters of the Mackenzies, and may at one time have been custodians of the great castle at Eilean Donan. It was in the service of the Mackenzie chief that the clan came to great prominence. The Marquess of Montrose had rallied many Highland clans to the royalist cause in 1645. He was, however, equally opposed by many, including the Covenanter Earl of Seaforth, then chief of the Mackenzies. The men of Kintail, led by the MacLennan chief, Ruaridh, a red-bearded giant standing well over six feet tall, carried

Lord Seaforth's standard. The forces of the Covenant engaged Montrose at Auldearn on 9 May 1645. The marquess was heavily outnumbered but his strategic genius more than compensated. He massed his banner, hoping to deceive the enemy as the location of his main force. The ruse succeeded, forcing the Covenanters to mass their forces for a full assault. Montrose outflanked Seaforth, turning the tide of battle on his favor. The MacLennans were sent an order to withdraw, but it was never delivered. Ruairidh and his men fought to the last, defending Seaforth's standard. They were finally cut down by the Gordon cavalry.

The decimated clan played little part in any of the Jacobite risings, although eleven MacLennans are recorded as being taken prisoner after Culloden. After the terrible defeat, the clan system began to fall apart, with many Highlanders immigrating to other parts of the world. There are MacLennan Mountains in New Zealand and a MacLennan County in Texas in the United States.

Ronald MacLennan of MacLennan was recognized by the Lord Lyon, King of Arms, as chief of this name under the process of selection known as 'ad hoc derbhfine'. He was not a bloodline chief, although he was a member of the only MacLennan family to have matriculated arms since 1672. He carried out a great deal of research into the clan history, and published this in 1978. He traced the clan's origins to the ancient royal Celtic families of Ireland and Scotland through Aengus Macgillafinan, Lord of Locherne around 1230.

The family also developed a great tradition as pipers. MacLennans were town pipers in Inverness in the early sixteenth century, played at the Battle of Waterloo, and regularly won modern competitions. This is commemorated by the heraldic supporters which the chief selected when his arms were matriculated.

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

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Clan MAC LENNAN Septs

GIL(L)FIMAN	MAC ALONAN	MAC KLENDIN	MAC LERNON
GILFILLIAN	MAC CLANA(C)HAN	MAC KLENDON	MAC LINNAN, -EN
GILLILAND	MAC CLARON	MAC LENDALL	MAC LINNON
KNE (E) LAND	MAC CLENDON	MAC KLINNAN	MAC LOON (E)
LAG(G)AN	MAC CLENNAN	MAC LANNIN	MACLORAN
LENAN(E)	MAC CLENNIE,-Y	MAC LANNON	MAC LORINAN
LENDON	MAC CLENNEN	MAC LANNIN	MAC LYNDON
LENNON, -AN	MAC CLENNON	MAC LANNON	MAC WILNANE
LEONARD, -ERD	MAC CLERNON	MAC LARNON	MAC WILNONE
LINDEN,-ON	MAC CLINDEN	MAC LEANAN	MC CLENAGHAN
LOBBAN, - IN	MAC CLINNIE	MAC LENADHAN	MC CLENDAL
LOG (G) AN , - EN	MAC FATRICK	MAC LENAGAN	MC CLENDAS
LOG (G) IN	MAC FETRICK	MAC LENAHAN	MC CLENDON
LYNDON	MAC GILILLAN	MAC LENDEN	MC LANDON
MAC ALENON	MAC GLOGAN	MAC LENDON	MC LENDALL
MAC ALINDEN	MAC KILLIGAN	MAC LENNA	MC LENDON
MAC ALIN(I)ON	MAC KLENDON	MAC LENNAN,-EN	MC LENNON
MAC ALINO	MAC KLENDEN	MAC LENNON	MECLENDON

MAC LORAN
MAC LORINAN

WIN(N)AN
WINNING

WINNING
WINTON

This clan information sheet has been prepared by
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