



# Clan MACMILLAN

## ARMS

Or, a lion rampant Sable, armed and langued Gules, and in chief three mullets Azure

## CREST

A dexter and a sinister hand issuing from the Wreath grasping brandishing aloft a two-handed sword Proper

## MOTTO

Miseris succurrere disco (I learn to succour the unfortunate)

## On Compartment

Fhad's a bhuaileas tonn ri crag (As long as the wave beats against the rock)

## SUPPORTERS

Two lions Sable, having collars Or, each charged with three mullets azure

## STANDARD

Azure, a St Andrew's Cross Argent in the hoist and of the Livery Or, upon which is depicted the Badge along with the Slogan 'Chnap' extended in the fly in letters Sable

## PINSEL

Or, bearing upon a Wreath of the Liveries the Crest within a strap Sable buckled and embellished Or, inscribed with the Motto 'Miseris succurrere disco' in letters Or all within a circlet Or, fimbriated Vert, bearing the title 'Macmillan of Macmillan and Knap' in letters Sable, and in an Escrol Sable surmounting a sprig of Holly Proper the Slogan 'Choir Mhic Mhoalain' in letters Or

## BADGE

A lion's head erased Sable gorged with a collar Or charged with three mullets Azure

## PLANT BADGE

Holly seedlings furcated Proper

**T**he Macmillans are Celts descended from an ancient royal house and from the orders of the Celtic church. In the sixth century, the Irish prince, St Columba, established his church on Iona, thereafter the cradle of Christianity in Gaelic Scotland. The Columban church permitted priests to marry, and it faced increasing pressure from the papacy after the arrival in Scotland of Queen Margaret, under whose influence more European practices were introduced. Malcolm's son, Alexander I, tried to integrate the two traditions when he appointed Cormac, a Columban, as Bishop of Dunkeld. Cormac, had numerous sons, one of whom, Gillie Chriod, or disciple of Christ, was the progenitor of the Macmillans. As a Celtic priest, the bishop's son would have had a distinctive tonsure: the Celts shaved their hair over the front of the head, rather than in the Roman manner of a ring around the crown. The Celtic tonsure was described as that of St John, which is rendered in Gaelic, 'Mhaoillain'. Macmillan is therefore son of one who bore the tonsure of St John. An alternative form, 'Mac Ghillemhail', 'son of the tonsured servant', was favored by the Lochaber branch of the clan.

The Clan appears to have moved to the shores of Loch Archaig in Lochaber when David I abolished the moriaership of Moray, and settled the region with Norman knights. They were well established by the end of the thirteenth century when the death of Margaret, the Maid of Norway, at Orkney in 1290, set in motion the events which were to lead to the War of Independence. Robert the Bruce settled his dispute with John, the Red Comyn, by stabbing him to death in the Greyfriars Church at Dumfries. The Comyns and their allies rose in fury, and the new king was forced to flee into hiding in the Highlands. He was sheltered by Maolmuire, the Macmillan chief, at his home at Ben Lawers. The chief's brother, Gilbert, Baron of Ken, stayed with the king, and the clan fought at Bannochburn. He is the presumed ancestor of the Macmillans of Brocklock, a large Galloway branch of the clan. Despite this, when Robert's son, David II, opposed the Lord of the Isles, the Macmillans, who were generally considered loyal to the Lordship of the Isles, were expelled from the area of Loch Tay around 1360. John of Islay granted them lands at Knapdale. Alexander, fifth of Knap, and twelfth chief of the clan, has left the two most enduring Macmillan memorials, a round tower and a Celtic cross. Castle Sween is one of the oldest fortresses in Scotland, and Alexander married Erca, daughter of Hector Macneil and heiress to the castle. He probably built the round tower on the northwest of the castle, known afterwards as Macmillan's Tower. A fine cross was also erected by him, or in his memory, in the churchyard at Kilmory. One of the finest examples of Celtic art, it shows the chief himself hunting deer.

In time, the direct line became extinct and the chiefship passed, in 1742, to Macmillan of Dunmore, whose lands lay on the side of Loch Tarbert. The Macmillans were not noted Jacobites. John Macmillan of Murlaggan, whose line were later to head the Lochaber Macmillans, refused to join Prince Charles Edward unless the Stuarts renounced the Catholic faith. Murlaggan's eldest son defied his father and the Macmillans formed a company of Lochiel's regiment which fought at Culloden; both sons died in the battle. Donald Macmillan of Tulloch, was induced to surrender to the Duke of Cumberland under the impression that he and his men had been promised protection, but they were transported to the Caribbean without trial. Hugh Macmillan guided the prince from Fasnakyle at the mouth of Glen Afric over the hills to Loch Arkaig after Culloden.

Alexander Macmillan of Dunmore, sometime Depute Keeper of the Signet, and important legal post in Edinburgh, died in July 1770. He designated his cousin's son, Duncan Macmillan, also a lawyer, as his heir. This line, who were styled the Lagalarve Macmillans, seem not to have had a full appreciation of their standing as chiefs of a great clan, although they served their country well. William Macmillan, Duncan's brother, served as captain of marines under Admiral Nelson on his flagship HMS *Victory*.

It was Captain Willam's great-grandson, General Sir Gordon Macmillan, father of the present chief, who reawakened the chiefly memory. Even he was not aware that he was the hereditary chief of the Clan Macmillan until he sought to matriculate arms to fly over Edinburgh Castle, of which he had been appointed governor. In fact, arms had been designed, showing him to be a cadet of the chiefly house, when his true pedigree was discovered by the Rev. Somerled Macmillan. Sir Gordon established the seat of the chiefs at Finlaystone House in Renfrewshire.

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#### **Clan MAC MILLAN Septs**

BAIL(L)(E)(S)	BLUE(S)	MAC MILLIN	MAC MYLLAN ( S )
BALE (S)	BROUN (E)	MAC MILLION	MAC NAMELL, -ILL
BAXTER	BROWN(E)	MAC MILLON	MAC NAMOILE
BAYLES	MAC BAXTER	MAC MOLAN (D)	MAC NAMOYLE
BEAL(L)(S)	MAC GILLEMILL	MAC MOLLAND	MILLAN
BEEL(E)(S)	MAC ILVEIL	MAC MOLLEN	MILLEN
BEIL(L)	MAC MAHILL	MAC MULKEN, - IN	MULLEN ( S )
BELL	MAC MALLON, - IN	MAC MULLAN,-EN(S)	MULLIN ( S )
BILE(S)	MAC MILLAN	MAC MULLETTE	MILLIKIN
BILL(S)	MAC MILLEN	MAC MULLIN ( S )	MULLIKIN
BLEW	MAC MILLIAN	MAC MULLUN (S)	MULLING ( S )

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