



## Clan MACTHOMAS

### ARMS

Quarterly, 1<sup>st</sup>, Or, a lion rampant Gules armed and langued Azure; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Argent, a dexter hand fessways couped at the wrist holding a dagger point downwards Gules; 3<sup>rd</sup>, or, a lymphad Azure, sails furled Proper and flagged Gules, its oars in saltire also Gules; 4<sup>th</sup>, Or, a lion rampant Gules armed and langued Azure surmounted of a chevron Sable; the whole within a border compopny Gules and Argent, each alternative pane charged of a heart Gules counterflory Azure

### CREST

A demi-cat-a-mountain rampant guardant Proper, grasping in his dexter paw a serpent Vert, langued Gules, its tail environing the sinister paw

### MOTTO

Deo juvante invidiam superabo (I will overcome envy with God's help)

**On Compartment** Clach na coileach (the stone of the cock)

### SUPPORTERS

(on a compartment embellished with snowberry plants dexter, a domestic cock Sable, armed, beaked, wattled, combed and membered Gules; sinister, a blackcock regardant Proper

### STANDARD

Azure, a St Andrew's Cross Argent in the hoist and of two tracts Gules and Or, upon which is depicted a sprig of snowberry Proper in the first and third compartments and the Crest in the second compartment, along with the Motto 'Clach na coileach' in letters Or upon two transverse bands Sable.

### PINSEL

Gules, the Crest as in the Arms within a strap Proper, buckle and furnishings Or, bearing the Motto 'Deo juvante invidiam superabo' within a circlet Or, having the style 'MacThomas of Finegand' in letters Gules, and in the fly a sprig of snowberry Proper along with the Slogan 'Clach na coileach' upon an Escrol Argent in letters Sable

**PLANT BADGE** Snowberry plants

**T**homas, a Gaelic-speaking Highlander known as Tomaidh Mor, from whom the clan takes its name, was a descendant of the Clan Chattan Mackintoshes, his grandfather having been a son of William, eighth chief of the Clan Chattan. Thomas lived in the fifteenth century, at a time when the Clan Chattan Confederation had become large and unmanageable, and he took his kinsmen and followers across the Grampians, from Banenoch to Blenshee, where they settled and flourished, being known as Mccomie, a phonetic form of the Gaelic, as well as Mccolm and Mccomas. To the government in Edinburgh, they were known as Macthomas, and are so described in the roll of the clans in the Acts of Parliament of 1587 and 1595.

The earlier chiefs ruled from the Thom, on the East bank of the Shee Water opposite the Spittal of Glenshee, thought to be the site of the tomb of the legendary Diamid, of the Fingalian saga. In about 1600, when the fourth chief, Robert Mccomie of Thom, was murdered, the chiefship passed to his brother, John Mccomie of Finegand, who lived about three miles down the glen, and Finegand in turn became the seat of the chief. Finegand is corruption of the Gaelic, 'feith nan ceann', meaning burn of the heads', which is said to be a reference to the fate of some unfortunate tax collectors who were killed and worse severed heads were tossed into the burn. The Macthomases consolidated their power in the glen and became well established at Kerro and Benzian, and up into Glen Beag. The seventh chief, John Mccomie, more properly known as Iain Mor, has passed into the folklore of Perthshire and Angus as McComie Mor. Tax collectors appear to have been particularly offensive to him, especially to those of the Earl of Atholl. The Earl enlisted a champion swordsman from Italy, whom he hoped would slay McComie, but the swordsman was himself slain by his intended victim.

The Macthomases supported Charles I, and Iain Mor joined Montrose at Dundee in 1644. When Aberdeen fell to royalist forces it was Iain Mor who captured Sir William Fofbes of Craigievar, the sheriff of Aberdeen and covenant cavalry commander. After Montrose's defeat at Phiphaugh, the chief withdrew his men from the struggle and

devoted his energies to his lands and people, extending his influence into Glen Prosen and Stathardle. He purchased the Barony of Forter in Glenisla from the Earl of Airlie. Forter Castle had been burned eleven years earlier and so Iain Mor built his house at Crandart n the bank of the River Isla, a few miles north of the castle ruins. Despite his earlier royalist sympathies, Iain Mor admired the stability of the government brought by the commonwealth, with the attendant prosperity it brought to Scotland. This soured his relationship with his royalist neighbors, including Lord Airlie.

At the Restoation in 1660, the local royalists took their revenge. Macthomas was fined heavily by Parliament and Lord Airlie took legal action to recover the forest at Canlochan, although it was actually part of the Fortar estates. Airlie's suit prevailed, but the chief refused to recognize the decree and continued to pasture his cattle on the disputed land. Airlie, in turn, exercised his legal right to lease the land to Farquharson of Broughdearg, a cousin of Iain Mor, which led to a bitter family feud. In an affray on the 28 January 1673 at Dumgley just west of Forfar, a spot now known as McCombie's Field, Broghdearg was killed, along with two of Iain Mor's sons. The feud continued, and crippling law suits and fines ultimately ruined the Macthomases, and after Iain Mor's death in 1676 his remaining sons were forced to sell their lands.

The Macthomas chief is mentioned in Government proclamations in 1678 and 1681, but the clan was now drifting apart. Some moved south into the Tay valley where their name became Thomson, or to Angus in Fife where they are found as Thomas, Thom or Thoms. The tenth chief, Angus took the surname Thomas, and alter Thoms, and settled in northern Fife where he and his family farmed successfully. They moved to Dundee at the end of the eighteenth century, acquiring the estate of Aberlemno near Forfar.

In Aberdeenshire the name became corrupted to Mccombe, as well as the anglicized forms Thom and Thomson. William Mccombe of Tilllifer, descended from the youngest of Iain Mor's son, was MP for Soth Aberdeeshire at the end of the nineteenth century, and is today regarded as the father of Aberdeen-Angus cattle breeding. The fifteenth chief, Patrick Hunter Macthomas Thoms of Aberlemno, was Provost of Dundee from 1847 to 1853. He was succeeded by his son, George, an advocate and a great philanthropist. In 1967 George's great-nephew was officially recognized by the Lyon Court as MacThomas of Finegand, eighteenth chief..

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#### **Clan MAC THOMAS Septs**

FINGASK	MAC COMI SH	MAC OMIE, - Y	TAMMIE, - Y
MAC COM	MAC COOM(E)(S)	MAC OMISH	THOM(S)
MAC COMAS	MAC COOMB(E)(S)	MAC THOM(M)	THOMAS
MAC COMB ( S )	MAC HOMASH	MAC THOMAS	TOMISON
MAC COMBIE,-Y	MAC HOME	MAC TOM	TOMSON
MAC COMBISH	MAC KOM	TAM	TOWSON
MAC COME	MAC LAWS	TAM(E)SON	TUMASON
MAC COMIE,-EY	MAC LEHOSE	TAMMES	

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