



Clan MANSON

ARMS	Silver with a cross Calvary between two red stars.
CREST	Not available
MOTTO	Meae menor originis (Mindful of my origin)

MANSON. This name was common in Caithness in the sixteenth century and is very common in Shetland (where it is eleventh in order of frequency). It is an assimilated form of MAGNUSSON, 'son of Magnus.' *Magnus* (Latin, 'great') was a popular name among the Norsemen and was borrowed by them in admiration of Charlemagne (in Liltin, *Carolus Magnus*). "It is worth remembering," says Dr. Alexander Bugge, "that long before the birth of Magnus the Good [King of Norway, 1035-47] the name Magnus was used among Norse kings of Man and the Hebrides. The first persons who bear this name are *Magnus mac Arailt*, a chieftain from the Hebrides, in 972, and *Magnus Berna* (i.e. Magnus son of Bjorn) from Limerick, who probably was akin to the chieftains from the Hebrides. When Sighvat Skald named the new-born son of St. Olav Magnus after Charlemagne, it was probably not his own invention. He had most likely heard the name in the British Isles, and knew that it was derived from the great Emperor". Jonas filius Magni was one of those who laid charges against David Meyner of Weem in 1427. Angus Mangson in Kirkwall in 1446 appears again in 1455 as Anguss Magniss, balzhe of Kyrkwaw. David Manson was tenant of Petconnouchty, Ardmanoch, in 1504, Thomas Mainsoun appears in Dunrossness, Shetland, in 1602, Robert Mansone was burgess of Dornoch, 1669, and John Mansone, 'dene of gild: and three other Mansones took the Test in the burgh of Tain in 1685. William Manswn was burgess of Lanark in 1490, Finlay Mansoun, reader at Nig, was presented to the vicarage of that church in 1569 (RPC.), and Andrew Mansioun was member of council of the Canongate of Edinburgh in 1568. Joseph Manson was carpenter to Mary queen of Scots and to King James VI. Niels Monson was a native of Shetland, 1567, Finlaw Mansoun was minister at Tayn, 1574. Robert Manson is recorded in Glen in 1674 and Robert Manson in Fomenoch in 1782 (*Kirkcudbright*). Mans Magnussonn is recorded in Dunrossness in 1602. Mansons were a branch of Clan Gunn, and spread from Caithness through Sutherland to Ross prior to 1582. Mansson and Manssoun 1625, Maunsone and Maunusone c. 1524.

Taken from "Surnames of Scotland", by Black, The New York Public Library.

Clan MANSON Septs

MAC MAN(N)
MACKMAN
MAN(N) SON
MANE SON
MANSEN

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