



Clan McIVER

ARMS
CREST
MOTTO

Quarterly Or and Gules, overall a bend Sable
A boar's head couped Or
Nunquam obliviscar (I will never forget)

This family of very ancient heritage takes its name from the Gaelic 'Maciomhar', meaning 'son of Ivar'. This is a Norse personal name and it is therefor extremely difficult to determine with any certainty the progenitor after whom this family is named. Black states that Imhair was a Norse chief who joined with Olaf the White, King of Dublin, in his siege and sack of Dumbarton around 870. Doenaldus, son of Makbeth Macyvar, is recorded as one of the perambulators of the boundary between the lands of Arbroath Abbey and the barony of Kynlathmund in 1219. In 1292 the lands of Malcolm McLuys and others in Lorne were erected into the sheriffdom of Lorne by Act of Parliament. McIan states that Iver was a son of Duncan, Lord of Lochow, and therefore the Macivers were part of the a Progeny from which was to spring the mighty Clan Campbell. Indeed, it has been suggested that Iver was the elder son and that the Macivers were truly the senior line. In practical terms, this seems to have been of little significance, as the Campbell Lords of Lochow distinguished themselves in battle and succeeded in acquiring the Lordship of Lorne, thereafter becoming earls, and ultimately dukes, of Argyll. Their ascendancy over their cousins, the Macivers, does not seem to have gone undisputed, and it is recorded that in 1564 the fifth Earl, in return of Maciver acknowledgement of his chiefship, resigned all claims he might have to receive calps (tribute in cattle or other livestock) from them. The Macivers held the estates of Asknish, and the deeds to their estates bound them to use that name. They remained trusted allies of the Campbells, and in 1572 Duncan Maciver, chief of Asknish, was captain or keeper of Inverary Castle. His cousin, Charles, the Laird of Ballochyle, is said to have used the names Campbell and Maciver quite indiscriminately, but in May 1589 he is recorded as holding the powerful post of chamberlain of Argyll. Thereafter the fortunes of the Macivers were largely those of the great house of Argyll and they followed Campbell interests throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. McIan suggests that it was after the restoration of the Campbell fortunes, after the defeat of James VII and II in 1690, that the Earls of Argyll imposed upon their Maciver supporters the condition that they adopt the surname of Campbell in return for the restoration of their forfeited estates. This is a trite explanation, s there had been so much intermarriage with other Campbell cadets, including the Houses of Dunstaffnage, Arkdinglass and others, that the use of the name and the quartering of arms would have taken place in any event. The principal houses bore into this century the compound surnames of Maciver-Campbell of Asknish and Maciver-Campbell of Ballochyle. There is now an active Maciver Society which has established its headquarters at Strathendry Castle in fife, and which seeks to promote awareness of the distinctive character of the name.

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