



## Clan MURDOCH

### ARMS

Silver with a chequered fesse in the centre and two ravens hanging by an arrow.

### CREST

Not available

### MOTTO

Omne secundo (With favourable omen)

**M**MURDOCH, MURDOCK. Two Gaelic names, *Muireach* and *Murchadh*, of different origin, both coalesce and are hopelessly confused in this name. (1) *Muireach* in Middle Gaelic. *Muiredhaigh* (gen., M'Vurich), *Murreich* (Dean of Lismore), *Muireadhaigh*, Irish. *Muireadhach*, Elr. *Muiredach* (for *Muirfedach*), Ir. Lat. *Muirethac-us*, and in Adamnan. *Muiredachus*, 'belonging to the sea, a mariner.' From this comes MACVURICH (*MacMhuirich*), q.v. (2) *Murchadh*, Elr. *Murchad*, from \* *moricatus*, 'sea warrior.' From this comes MURCHIE, MACMURCHIE, MURCHISON, and Murphy (formerly in Arran). Murdac and Murdoc are found in DB. as names of landowners in Yorkshire, Sussex, and Oxfordshire. They were either Gaels or Norsemen of Irish descent. Murdac was dean of Appleby, Westmoreland, 1175. Walter Murdac, Morthaich, or Murdoch was a person of prominence in the reign of William the Lion and figures as witness in several charters, and other Murthacs or Murdaks are mentioned about the same time and in the following century. Murdoch, second duke of Albany, executed in 1425, is referred to in English records as: Mordac, Mordake, Mordik, Mordoc, Mordok, Mordyk, Moreduc, Mourdac, and Murthak. William Murdoch (1754-1839), inventor of gas-lighting, was proclaimed a deity by Nassred-din, Shah of Persia, who believed him to be a re-incarnation of Merodach or Marduk, 'god of light.' MURDOCK is a less common spelling of the name.

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

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