

# Clan ORR

<b>ARMS</b>	None
<b>CREST</b>	None
<b>MOTTO</b>	ne obliviscaris (Do not forget)

**O**rr, a surname common in Renfrewshire, particularly in the parish of Lochwinnoch, where, at one period, there were some heritors of the name. Hewe de Orr appears in the Ragman Roll as having sworn fealty to Edward I. in 1296. The name occurs also in writs of the time of James IV. The family of Orr of Barrowfield came originally from the parish of Cumbusmethan, in the upper ward of Lanarkshire.

Hew Orr rendered homage in 1296. Four persons named Or were summoned to answer charges made against them by the abbot of Paisley, 1503. John Or was witness in Glasgow, 1550. Matthew Ore in Paisley, 1654, and James Orre in Barneth, 1678. The name is very common in this record. There were also Orrs in Cambeltown, Kintyre, as early as 1640, immigrants most probably from Rengrewshire. Perhaps from some lost place name. A descriptive name from G. *odhar*, dun, of sallow complexion. Donald Oure, son of Filay Oure, is mentioned, 1512, and John Or in Moy, a follower of Campbell of Cawdor, 1578. Alexander Over *alias* Robertson in Commoch, was fined for reset of Clan Gregor, 1613, and Alexander Ore was member of Gartly Company of Volunteers 1798. Hugh Orr, born in Lochwinnoch, Ayrshire emigrated to United States in his twenties and took an active part in the Revolutionary war by casting guns and shot for the Continental Army, beside doing much to encourage rope making, spinning and manufacture of edge tools.

Hugh Orr, born at Lochwinnoch, January 13, 1717, and bred a gunsmith and door-lock filer, went to America, at the age of twenty, and settled at Massachusetts. At Bridgewater, in that State, he set up the first tilt hammer in that part of the country, and for several years he was the only maker in that quarter of edge-tools, the manufacture of which he was the means of spreading through various parts of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. In 1748 he made 500 muskets for the province of Massachusetts Bay, and during the revolutionary war he engaged actively in the manufacture of arms. In conjunction with a French gentleman, he established a foundry for the casting of cannon and cannon-shot. He also originated the business of exporting flax-seed from the part of the country in which he resided. For several years he was elected a senator for the county of Plymouth. He died in December 1798, in his 82 year.

In Ireland the name Orr is derived from Scottish settlers who arrived into the Province of Ulster in the seventeenth century. The main settlement points were Counties Down and Antrim where the majority of descendants can still be found.

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

This clan information sheet has been prepared by  
The Scottish Society of Louisville, Inc.  
PO Box 32248  
Louisville, KY 40232-2248

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