



Clan ROSS

ARMS

Gules, three lions rampant Argent, armed and langued Azure

CREST

A hand holding a garland of juniper Proper

MOTTO

Spem successus alit (Success nourishes hope)

SUPPORTERS

(on a compartment embellished with juniper plants fructed Proper) Two savages wreathed about the head with oak and loins with juniper all Proper, that on the dexter holding in his exterior hand a club Gules resting on one shoulder Proper, that on the sinister holding a branch of juniper fructed Proper in his exterior hand and also resting on his shoulder

STANDARD

The Arms of Ross of Ross in the hoist and of two tracts Argent and Gules, upon which is depicted the Crest in the first and third compartments, and the Badge in the second and fourth compartments, along with the Motto 'Spem successus alit' in letters Argent upon three transverse bands Azure

PINSEL

Argent, bearing upon a Wreath of the Liveries Argent and Gules a hand holding a garland of juniper Proper within a strap of leather Proper buckled and embellished Or inscribed with the Motto 'Spem successus alit' in letters of the Field all within a circlet Or fimbriated Azure bearing the title 'Ross of Ross' in letters Gules and in the fly an Escrol Azure surmounting a sprig of juniper fructed Proper bearing the Slogan 'Ross'

BADGE

A sprig of juniper fructed Proper

PLANT BADGE

juniper plant fructed Proper

In the ancient Celtic tongue, a ros was a promontory, such as the fertile land between the Cromarty and Dornoch Firths. Those who bore the name rose to be Earls of Ross, and it is believed that the first Earl, Malcolm, who lived in the early twelfth century, allied his family to O'Beolan of the great Irish royal house of Tara, by the marriage of his daughter. The clan was sometimes also referred to as Clan Anrias, or Gille Andras, alluding to Anrias, a distinguished O'Beolan ancestor. It has also been suggested that another variation, 'MicGille Andras', 'son of the follower of St Andrew', derives from one of the ancient earls who was devoted to Scotland's patron saint.

In 1214, Alexander II led his army to the north to put down the rebellion of the son of Donald Bane, a rival claimant to the throne. He was aided by the chief of Clan Ross, Fearchar Mac and t'sagirt, which in English acclaimed him to be 'son of the priest', alluding to his O'Beolan descent from the hereditary Abbots of Applecross. Fearchar was knighted by his king, and by 1234 he was formally recognized in the title of Earl of Ross. The earl's son, William, received grants of land in Skye and Lewis. William's son, also William, was abducted around 1250 during a revolt against the earl's rule, and was rescued with help from the Munros, who were rewarded with grants of land and became closely connected to their powerful benefactors.

The Rosses were prominent in Scottish affairs and supported an alliance with Llewellyn the Welsh Prince, against the English. They fought at the Battle of Largs against the Norse invasion in 1263, and spoke in Parliament of 1283 in support of settling the succession to the throne on the infant Princess Margaret, the Maid of Norway. Young William survived to succeed his father as chief and Earl of Ross, leading his clan through the turmoil of the struggle to win Scotland's independence. He was one of those who swore fealty to Edward I of England in 1296, and when he was captured at the Battle of Dunbar in the same year, he was sent as a prisoner to London. He was later released, but again fell into the hands of the English in 1306, when he was forced to surrender Bruce's wife and daughter, whom he was protecting and who had taken sanctuary at the shrine of St Duthac at Tain. The king was at first enraged, but when the earl sued for pardon he received it, and the reconciliation was cemented by the marriage of Ross's son to the king's sister, Princess Maud. The clan fought with distinction at Bannodkburn, and the earl's seal was affixed to the great Declaration of Arbroath in 1320. Hugh, the brother-in-law of Bruce, fell at the Battle of Halidon Hill in 1333.

The last chief to hold the earldom was another William, who died in 1372. Euphemia, his only daughter, claimed the earldom as Countess of Ross, but it eventually passed through the Macdonalds of the Isles into the hands of the Crown in 1476. The chiefship devolved upon William's younger half-brother, Hugh of Balnagowan.

The Rosses were royalists in the civil war and David, the twelfth chief, led almost a thousand of his clansmen against the forces of Oliver Cromwell at the Battle of Worcester in 1651. The royalists were defeated, and Ross and many of his men were taken prisoner. The chief was imprisoned in the Tower of London in 1653, while many of his

clansmen were transported to the colonies in New England. His son, another David, succeeded to the chiefship when he was only nine years of age.

David died, without an heir, in 1711, and the chiefship passed to his kinsman, Malcolm Ross of Pitcalnie. The once-proud estate of Balnagowan had been terribly burdened with debt, and was eventually purchased by General Charles Ross, brother of Lord Ross of Hawkhead, whose family were from the Lowlands and were truly 'de Roos' of Norman descent. As such, they were, genealogically, complete strangers to the Celtic Earls of Ross but nevertheless managed to obtain a matriculation in the Court of the Lord Lyon of the undifferenced arms of Ross. Pitcalnie continued to be regarded as the chief by the clan, and he was acknowledged by the great Simoh Fraser, Lord Lovat, who wrote in 1740 hailing him as 'brother chief'. In the risings of 1715 and 1745 the clan as a whole avoided Jacobite intrigues, although Malcolm, the Younger of Pitclanie, joined the 'Old Pretender'.

The chiefship was restored to the true line in 1903, when Miss Ross of Pitcalnie rematriculated the undifferenced chiefly arms. The chiefship eventually passed in 1968 to her heir, David Ross of Ross and Shandwick, a descendent in the direct male line of Mac an t'sagirt, who was Earl of Ross more than seven-and-a-half centuries ago. The chief's grandfather, Sir Ronald Ross of Shandwick, was a pioneer of modern medicine who discovered the cause of malaria. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1902.

Taken from "Scottish Clan & Family Encyclopedia", by Collins, HarperCollins Publishers 1994

Clan genealogists:

Fran Bumann
Genealogist
Clan Ross Association of the United States, Inc.
1867 Via Acorde
Camarillo, CA 93010
(805) 389-4338
email: fbumann@earthlink.net
Home Page: <http://www.clanrossassociation.org/usa.htm>

Ian Mackay Ross & Jacquie Ross
Newsletter Editors
Clan Ross Association of Canada, Inc.
273 Stradford Street
Winnipeg, MB R2Y 2E1
Canada
(204) 832-3773
FAX: (204) 885-9334
email: imross@mb.sympatico.ca
Home Page: <http://www.greatclanross.org>

NOTE: Clan Ross of Canada does not have a genealogist, but the Newsletter Editors will publish brief requests on Ross family connections in Canada in their newsletter. They cannot respond directly to questions.

Clan Ross Australia

Home Page: <http://www.geocities.com/annetteross>

Clan ROSS Septs

ANDERSON	DUNOON	MAC CROSS	MAC TYGUE
ANDISON	DUTHIE,-Y	MAC CULLIE,-Y	MACHTEY
ANDREW(S)	FAIR	MAC CULLOCH,-K	MENELAWS
CONNET(TE)	FARE	MAC INTAGGART	MITCHAL(L)
CONVET	FEAR	MAC LANDRISH	MITCHELL
CORBET(T)	FEARN(S)	MAC LANDRISH	MITCHELLSON
CONNET(TE)	GAIR	MAC LUL(L)ICH,-K	ROSS
CONVET	GEAR	MAC MITCHEL(L)	TAGGART
CORBET(T)	GILLANDER(S)	MAC ROSS	TARRELL
CROW(E)	HAG(G)ART,-Y	MAC TAGGART	TULL(I)O
CROY	HAGERTY	MAC TAGGETTE	TULLOCH,-K
CULLIE,-Y	HAGGERT(Y)	MAC TAGUE	TYGART
CULLOCH	KROY	MAC TEAGUE	TYGRT
DARLINGTON	LOCHART	MAC TEAR	VASS
DEA(S) DEAS DEA(S)	LOCKHART	MAC TEIGUE	WASS
DENOON	MAC ANDREW	MAC TIER	WATERS
DINGWALL	MAC COLLOCH	MAC TIGUE	WATTERS
DUNAN	MAC COLOUGH	MAC TIRE	WATTIE