



# Clan GAYRE

<b>ARMS</b>	Quarterly, 1 <sup>st</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> , Argent, a fleur de lis Sable in the dexter chief point a mullet Vert (Gayre); 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> , Ermine, a fret engrained Gules (McCulloch) of Nigg
<b>CREST</b>	Issuing from a crest coronet Or, of four (three visible) strawberry leaves, a mount Vert
<b>MOTTO</b>	Super astra spero (I hope beyond the stars)
<b>On compartment</b>	Sero sed serio (Late but in earnest)
<b>SUPPORTERS</b>	(on a compartment embellished with variegated bay or laurel Proper, berries Purple) Dexter, a lion rampant Sable, armed and langued Gules holding with the dexter forepaw a lance or pointed Argent, charged on the dexter shoulder with a Knot of Savoy Or, sinister, an ermine Proper langued Gules holding with the sinister forepaw a staff Or entwined with ivy leaves Proper fructed Purple, charged on the sinister shoulder with a Knot of Savoy Or
<b>STANDARD</b>	The arms in the hoist, and of two tracts Argent and Vert semée of sprigs of golden or varigaed bay or laurel Proper fructed Purple, upon which is depicted a lion rampant guardant Sable supporting a spear Or pointed Argent in the first compartment, the crest and a fret engrained Gules in the second compartment, and a fleur de lis Sable charged with a mullet Or, on a wreath Or composed of four roses Gules, seeded Gold barbed Vert, set saltireways in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> compartment, along with the Slughorn 'An Gayre' in letters Or upon tow transverse bands Gules
<b>ADDITONAL BADGES</b>	(1) A cross moline Sable (granted by the Chief Herald of Ireland); (2a) on a mount Vert a castle with three turrets Proper masoned Sable, fenestrated and port and caps Gules, flagged Argent a fleur de lis Sable; (2b) a fleur de lis Sable ensigned of a coronet Or (granted by the Council and Bureau of Heraldry of South Africa)
<b>PINSEL</b>	Vert, a mount Vert issuant from a crest coronet Or within a strap of leather Sable buckled and embellished Or inscribed with the Motto 'Super astra spearo' in letters Or all within a circlet Or bearing the title 'Gayre ad Nigg' in letters Gules and in the fly an Escrol Or surmounting a sprig of variegated bay or noble laurel Proper, berried Purple, bearing the Slogan 'An Gayre' in letters Gules
<b>PLANT BADGE</b>	Variegated bay or noble laurel Proper berries Purple
<b>GUIDON</b>	Bary of five Argent and Vert a cross moline Sable

**A** Celtic origin has been suggested for this name derived from 'gearr', meaning 'stocky'. The present chiefly family, however, authoritatively assert that the name hails from Cornwall, where the de Kayres were lords of Many manors. The name as it arises in Orkney and Shetland may have a separate origin, deriving from the Norse, 'geirr', meaning 'spear'. A cadet of the line of Otys Gayre of the manor of Gayre in Cornwall settled in Rossshire around 1649. The Maccullochs had until this time held the lands of Nigg, but these passed to the Gayres through marriage to Katherine Macculloch. Alexander Gayre of Nigg and his son, Thomas, extended the family's holdings. In 1679

Thomas became a notary public. Thomas, fourth Laird of Nigg, was notary public at Fort Rose and chancellor of the diocese of Ross. He became a prosperous merchant and councilor for Cromarty which was at the time a prominent sea port. The Gyres became embroiled in the eighteenth century ecclesiastical disputes which raged throughout Scotland. In 1756 the royal candidate for the church at Nigg was strongly opposed by Thomas Gayre, although the Crown candidate was eventually inducted. The Bayres became Dissenters, and William Gayre supplied land at Balchreggan to build a church. The church was seized at the end of the century by Lord Akerville when the lease came to an end, and he tore it down to build Shadwick House. The house itself fell down, which the faithful attributed to the wrath of the Lord. The present chief has virtually rebuilt the clan after distinguished service in The Second World War. He served for a time as minister of Education with the Allied government of occupation in Italy, and was awarded by King Umberto an augmentation to his coat of arms of the royal knots of Savory. He has established his seat at Minard Castle in Argyll and is a noted heraldic expert, having published numerous works on heraldry and related subjects.

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**Clan GAYRE Septs**

GAIR  
GAYRE  
GEAR

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