

Family Records
of
THE MacHARDYS
of

MacLennan's Mountain, Pictou Co., N. S., Can



ALEXANDER MacHARDY, J.P.

A noted magistrate

(1827-1907)



Note: Abbreviations used, b.—born; m.—married; Unm.—un-married; d.—died; d.y.—died young. Two dates in brackets signifies date of birth and death. Children are in order of age, the eldest at the top of the page.

“Lest We Forget”

1973
1983
1970

The Clans of Scotland

The Highlanders of Scotland are of the Celtic (Keltic) race and are not Anglo-Saxons. They are of the same race as the Irish, the Welsh, the natives of Cornwall, Britany and the Basques of Spain. They are gallant fighters and the Highland regiments have a record unsurpassed in the British army. "The Black Watch", the "Gordon Highlanders", the "Cameron Highlanders" and the "H. L. I." to mention only a few. Many books are written on the Scottish clans, their chiefs and their chieftains so it will be unnecessary to mention them here. There are about forty or fifty large clans such as MacDonald, Robertson and Campbell and numerous smaller ones and septs of the large clans.

About half of the large clans are "Macs" such as MacLeod, MacLean, etc., and several of them end their name with "son" such as Robertson, Matheson and Davidson. Others have individual names as Fraser, Munro, Grant and Gunn.

The dress of the Highland clans is "the kilt" and it is proudly worn by the Scottish highland regiments, their allied regiments overseas and by clansmen all over the world, particularly at clan gatherings.

Each clan and sometimes each sept has their own tartan and frequently a "dress tartan" and a "hunting tartan". In these days tartan rugs, skirts, ties and the kilt are frequently used by those entitled to them. Or, if the person can trace back to a particular clan.

A "sept" is usually a branch of a large clan bearing a separate name but following or being attached to that clan. Septs are very numerous and usually wear the tartan of the clan which they are connected with.

Mottos, slogans, war cries and badges as well as tartans denote each clan. It is the proud boast of the gael or celts that the clans fought the Romans in the battle of Mons Grampus in 84 A.D., and brought the invasion to a halt. The real Highlands were never invaded by the Romans.

There are five clans particularly associated in this family tree.

CLAN MacHARDY

According to Frank Adam, author of "Clans, Septs and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands", the "MacHardys" of Strathdon were a sept of Clan MacIntosh.

This book has been revised by Sir Thomas Innes of Learney, Lord Lyon King of Arms and states that some of the MacHardys were a sept of Clan Farquharson but the Strathdon MacHardys followed the banner of MacIntosh.

This small but war-like clan took part in many battles of their day and may well have played a part in the famous "Rout of Moy" which was a success for Bonnie Prince Charlie in 1745.

They have their own tartan. Tartan ties can be purchased.

THE CAMPBELLS

This clan was and is one of the leading clans of Scotland. Its chief is the Duke of Argyll. They grew immensely powerful at the expense of neighboring clans and were not at all popular on account of opposing the Stuarts and Bonnie Prince Charlie.

They are divided into several branches such as Breadalbane, Cawdor and Glenlyon. The latter being connected with the massacre of Glencoe. The duke's seat is Inverary Castle, near Loch Awe in Argyllshire.

CLAN FRASER

One of the important clans of the north of Scotland is "The Frasers of Lovat". They are of Norman origin but have been so long in Scotland that they are considered and recognized as a highland clan.

There is probably more Fraser families in Pictou County than any other clan. The MacDonalds are a close second.

Incidentally a battle was fought by these two clans long ago, known as Blar-na-Leine (The Battle of the Shirts) because the combatants removed their shirts and fought with such determination that only five Frasers and eight MacDonalds remained alive at the end of the battle.

Simon, 11th Lord Lovat, an old man, was captured after the Battle of Culloden and was beheaded. He tried to play both sides and lost.

The present Lord Lovat, 16th chief, is famous for leading the Commandos in the 2nd World War. He is a great land owner, a charming man and a good friend of the writer's. His home is Beaufort Castle near Beauly, Inverness-shire.

CLAN CAMERON

The Camerons are a large clan. They are said to have their surname from the Cam-shron or "wry-nose" of an early chief.

Ewen, 13th chief, first who took the title "of Lochiel" added to the estates. In due time Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel, 17th chief was very famous in his day. He died in 1719 at the age of ninety.

Time went on and the clan prospered until Sir Donald, 19th chief, became one of the heroes of "the 45". He was known as "the gentle Lochiel" and was a great supporter of Prince Charles. After Culloden he escaped to France where he died in 1748. The present head of Clan Cameron is the 25th chief. Achracarry Castle is his home,

CLAN ROBERTSON

The clan claims descent from the great king, Malcolm II (1005-1034) and through him from Kenneth MacAlpine first king of the Picts and Scots who reigned 843 to 859 A.D.

Dr. W. F. Skene, an eminent authority, says, "The Robertsons of Struan are unquestionably the oldest family in Scotland".

Duncan or Donnachaidh Reamhair de Atholliia (1275-1356) is the chief, from which they took the name of clan Donnachaidh. He was a famous fighter and a firm friend of King Robert the Bruce. He led the clan at the battle of Bannockburn. He had four sons, the eldest named Robert after King Robert. So they were from then on called Robertsons.

The Robertsons were always noted for their loyalty to the Stuart kings. A loyalty which cost them dear in later years. Under the great Montrose, when they fought for King Charles I, the clan numbered 800 fighting men. They fought at Culloden, a terrible day for the Robertsons, and all other Jacobite clans.

The barony of Struan was created in 1451. The chief of the clan is styled "Struan Robertson" and the present chief is resident in Jamaica, W. I.

The clan is (next to the MacDonalds) the second most numerous clan in Scotland.

An active clan society was formed in 1893 and the writer was for several years vice-chairman and is at the present time an honorary vice president of the society.

HISTORICAL NOTES

Little is known about John MacHardy, who was born in 1780, except that he came to Pictou County from Strathdon Aberdeen-shire, Scotland and settled in the woodland on MacLennan's Mountain about 1810. He was a member of the small but active MacHardy Clan that supported Clan MacIntosh in the wars.

He married Janet Fraser who came out with him to "The Mountain" and who died on August 18th, 1859 at the age of 77 years.

The only one of John MacHardy's sons to marry was his third son, Alexander (1827-1907). He married into a prominent family of MacLellan's Brook. She was Joanna Campbell, the daughter of Alexander Campbell, Elder. He, the Elder, was well known in church circles, highly respected and the father of thirteen children, five sons and eight daughters. All of his children were noted in the community life of their district. All lead useful lives.

Alexander and his wife Joanna had nine of a family of whom only one, the eldest son died in childhood. The eight who lived consisted of two sons and six daughters. All but one daughter married and most of them brought up fairly large families.

He was a fairly good farmer and was particularly interested in legal discussion. He lived on his farm most of his life but latterly moved to the town of New Glasgow where he lived on Marsh Street. He acted as magistrate for years and was noted for his sound judgement and his wise decisions. Many preferred to consult him rather than a lawyer.

On his death in October 1907 at the age of 80, The Eastern Chronicle printed the following eulogy of his passing.

ALEXANDER MACHARDY, Esq.

"The decease of Alex. MacHardy, J. P. will be regretted by many people. He was old and full of years and although his strength of body was failing for the past year, his mind was as strong and fresh as in the vigor of manhood. He was born on MacLennan's Mountain and until his removal to New Glasgow he engaged in farming operations there, on the farm now occupied by his son.

Here, he engaged in magisterial business and was generally trusted and respected.

Mr. MacHardy had an intellect away above the average and was possessed of a prodigious memory. He was a well read man and a man of mature and correct judgement. Few men there were who had a greater knowledge of current literature and it was a great pleasure to listen to him talk of men, books and newspapers when he was disposed to be conversational.

In fact, Mr. MacHardy was one of the few remaining links between the old times and the new. These good old men are passing one by one, regretted by all who knew them. Our prominent citizens are going to the land beyond the river". (E.C. Oct. 27, 1907)

He was a strong powerfully built man, rugged in his later years. He had 38 grand children, a few of them born after his death.

He was succeeded on the home farm by his elder surviving son, Alexander C. MacHardy, who had a family of nine children, the eldest of which was a pilot in World War I. He was killed on November 10th, 1918, the day before hostilities ceased.

The fourth MacHardy on the home farm was and is Duncan Edward fourth son of Alexander C. who resides there today and who has three sons and one daughter. It is to be hoped that one of these sons will follow on, in the home of his ancestors and maintain the tradition of "a MacHardy on the Mountain".

December 1963

"Should Auld Acquaintance be Forgot"

J. G. R.