

CASTLE LACHLAN

The Clan's "old" castle is located on a point of land jutting out from a small bay on the eastern side of Loch Fyne. The neck of the point is low and marshy suggesting that, at one time, water was used to separate the castle from the mainland proper. Some records suggest that a moat may have at one time served to isolate the castle. The castle is said to be rather unique in Scotland. Externally, it was squarish measuring approximately 70' from north to south by 54' from east to west. At one time, it stood 43' high to the top of the battlements. The external walls were plain and crenelated along the top. On the outside, it had the appearance of a gate keep. From the inside it consisted of two tenements on the east and west sides of a narrow 12' wide, 34' long corridor. The tenements were connected at the north end by a small building, the interior of which contained the castle well, and two wheel staircases, one at each end of the courtyard.

The present Castle Lachlan was built in 1790 and is the home of the 25th Chief of the Clan, Euan Maclachlan of Maclachlan. It is located in Strathlachlan, near Strachur, on the banks of Loch Fyne in Argyll.



25th Chief
Euan Maclachlan
of Maclachlan

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the organization are to promote the general interest of the Clan and to cultivate the spirit of kinship and fellowship among its members throughout North America and with the Clan Society in the United Kingdom; to collect and preserve literary, historical, and genealogical records, documents, and relics relating to the Clan and to Scotland; to honor our Scottish heritage and to cultivate among our members and descendants the pride and spirit of our Scottish ancestors; to render aid to all clansmen should they meet adversity.

MEMBERSHIP IN CMANA

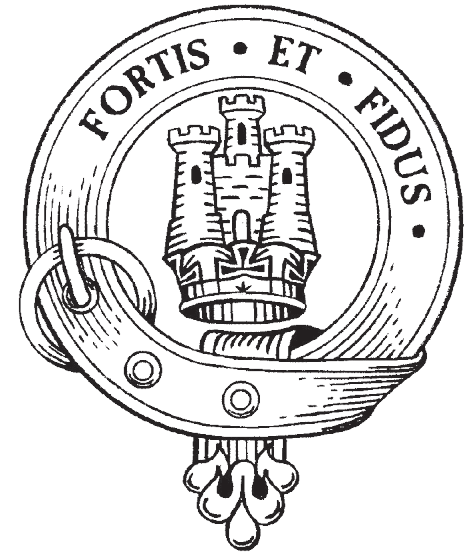
Family Membership: Covers all residents at a single residential address. Only the adult members (over age 18) of the family may hold office and vote.

Associate Membership: Covers all individuals at a single residential address who support Clan MacLachlan but cannot trace their ancestry to a MacLachlan, MacEwen, or Gilchrist. Associate members are ineligible to vote or hold office.

Membership applications should be mailed to:

Robert McLaughlin, President CMANA
PO Box 2438
Cullowhee, NC 28723 USA

Members receive copies of the CMANA newsletter *THE ROEBUCK*, and the worldwide Clan MacLachlan Society newsletter *CLAN MacLACHLAN*, each published twice yearly.



Clan MacLachlan
A Millennium of History

Presented By:
The Clan MacLachlan Association
of North America

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CMANA President
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www.cmana.net
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HISTORY

According to ancient manuscripts, the ancestors of Clan MacLachlan are descended from the O'Neills, Celtic-Gaelic Kings of Ireland for over 2500 years. The name means "son of Lachlan," and Lachlan itself is from the older Gaelic name Lachlann, which means Norway. The name MacLachlan became their hereditary surname many years after the family had moved from Ireland.

Tradition states that one of the sons, Aodh Anrothan, of Aodh Athlone O'Neill went to Scotland in the early eleventh century and married the heiress of Cowal and Knapdale, a princess from the Royal House of Argyll. Medieval Irish and Scottish genealogies tell us that Anrothan was the ancestor of the MacLachlans of Strathlachlan, the MacEwens, the Gilchrists, and other great clans such as the Lamonts and the MacMillans.

As early as 1230 Gilchrist MacLachlan witnessed a land charter and in 1292 Gilleskel MacLachlan received a charter for his land in Argyll. Both young Gillescop and his neighbor, the Campbell Chief, then gave their support to Robert the Bruce. He and Robert the Bruce spent many hours hunting and fishing together on Clan lands. Gillescop also attended the King's first Parliament at St. Andrews in 1308.

All through this era, the MacLachlans maintained close ties with the Campbells. All too often, these ties involved the MacLachlans in events like the Earl of Argyll's campaign of 1615 against Sir James MacDonald of Islay. The MacLachlans even appear to have been Hereditary Captains of Inneschonnell, an island in Loch Awe in Argyllshire, a Campbell stronghold. During this same period, the MacLachlans would join fights against the Campbells. For example, in 1644, the MacLachlans joined Kilsyth Alasdair in attacking the Campbells.

The MacLachlans were erected in a Free Barony in 1680. This grant officially gave the Clan Chiefs the power of life and death throughout their territory and the right to hold an annual marked at Kilbride.

The MacLachlans were loyal supporters of the Stewarts and fought in all the Jacobite campaigns in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. The MacLachlans are said to have been with Bonnie Dundee in 1689 at The Battle of Killiecrankie. While in the 1715 Rising, Lachlan MacLachlan, then Chief of the MacLachlans, signed the address of welcome to the Old Chevalier, the rightful King James VIII Stewart, on his landing in Scotland. In the 1745 uprising with Prince Charles Edward Stewart, the chief of the Clan served the Prince and was lost at Culloden while commanding a united regiment consisting of clan members from the MacLachlans and the MacLeans. The loss of the battle and war resulting in the destruction of the castle by the British in 1746.

MACLACHLANS IN NORTH AMERICA

Clan MacLachlan has been represented at Scottish gatherings and events across North America for over three decades. At first, it was made up of an informal group of dedicated people who gave of their energies to foster a young but growing organization. In 1981 Bylaws were finalized and officers were elected to formally create the Clan MacLachlan Association of North America, the first such organization dedicated to our MacLachlan heritage in the world. We have grown from a small group to an international group of several hundred throughout North America.

CLAN NAMES

There are over 500 different spellings of the Clan name, its septs, protectorate, and branches that have been identified to date. This number is growing as new variations are identified. Please check the CMANA.net website for the listing.

THE SYMBOLS OF THE MACLACHLANS

Clan MacLachlan has five registered tartans: Modern (1824), Dress (1842), Hunting (1893), Ancient (1930s), and Weathered (1950s). In addition, the Moncreiffe tartan is frequently referred to as "Old MacLachlan." It's known to have existed before 1800.

The Clan MacLachlan crest shown is the crest coronet with a castle set upon a rock, all proper. The castle and the rock are both symbols of safety and refuge.

Our motto is *Fortis et Ffidus* (strong and trust).

The Gaelic spelling of the name is spelled as *MacLachlainn*.

The war cry is "Life or Death."

The clan plant badges are lesser periwinkle and the European mountain ash (Rowan) tree. The plant badge is believed to be a charm or magic plant that is carried beside the Clan standard or fixed on a staff or spear. Clansfolk can wear a sprig of the plant pinned behind the silver crest on their bonnet or sash-brooch.