

Clan Mackenzie

Badge: Cuilfhion (*Ilex aquifolium*) Holly.

Slogan: Tullach ard.

Arms: a stag's head passant, bleeding at the forehead, on a field of azure, supported by 2 greyhounds, with, as crest, a dexter arm bearing a naked sword, surrounded with the motto, "Fide parva, fide aucta"

Descended from Gillean of the Aird, of the 10th century.

1st historical certainty is "murdo filius Kennethi de Kintail" who obtained the charter from David II in 1362. His great-grandfather, ⁺¹³⁰⁴ Kenneth, ^{moir} son of Angus, gave his name to the clan; he married a daughter of Alexander Macdougall of home (granddaughter of the Red Comyn slain by Bruce at Dumfries) but his son, ^{Kenneth Mac Kenneth} Ian, who succeeded him in 1304, took the part of Robert the Bruce and sheltered him at Eileandonan, fighting with him at the Battle of Inverury in 1308 and leading 500 men of Kintail at Battle of Bannockburn in 1315. Ian married Margaret, ^{Kenneth} dan. of David de Strathbogie, ^{11th} Earl of Athol. Their son, Kenneth of the ^{Episcopus Fynvoia} nose, married a dan. of ^{Roderick} MacLeod of the Leirs; their son, Murdoch, was sent to the MacLeods for safe-keeping when Eileandonan was attacked by the Earl of Ross. Murdoch later married the only dan. of Duncan Macaulay, ^{of Loch Broom} (who had protected him when his father was executed by the Earl of Ross) and then her succeeded to the lands of Loch Broom and Coigeach; he died 1375. His son, Murdoch of the Bridges, married a dan. of ^{Malcolm} MacLeod of ^{the Herries} Herries (a chief 4th in descent from Olaf, King of Man) ^{and} while his wife, ~~was~~ dan. of Donald, Earl of Mar, nephew of Robert the Bruce. Their son, Alastair Torric met King James I at Inverness in 1427, was arrested & sent to school at Perth. Later he stood with the Crown during the rebellion of the Earl of Douglas and got a

②
new charter confirming his lands in Kintail in 1463 from James II, died 1488,
head of one of the most powerful clans of the north; he married Anna,
dan. of Mac Dougal of Dumolly and second, a dan. of MacDonald of
Morar, their son becoming ancestor of the Gairloch family. Kenneth, son of
Anna, married Margaret, dan. of John of Iona, Lord of the Isles, but
eventually sent her back home when he was insulted by her family,
and married Anne, dan. of Lord Lovat; he was knighted by James IV
in 1491. His heir, Kenneth the Younger, was son of Margaret, dan. of
John of Iona, was killed in 1497 & was succeeded by John of Killin,
his half brother, (Anne's marriage had been declared legitimate by
the Pope.) who took part in Battle of Flodden & escaped. John made
Gilchrist Mackrae constable of Eileandonan; he fought for Queen
Mary at Battle of Pinkie, was captured & ransomed; he died 1561.
His ^{only} son was Kenneth who married a dan. of Earl of Atholl; from
their 3rd son, Roderick, was descended the family of Redcastle.

One-eyed Colin, 11th chief, was a court favourite; he led desperate
feud against MacDonalds of Glengarry about 1580.

Kenneth Mackenzie defeated MacDonald clan in 1607 when he
obtained royal charter for most of their lands; in 1609 James VI
made him Lord Mackenzie of Kintail; he died 1611.

Colin (the Red) had his estates managed by Sir Roderick Mackenzie
of Coigeach during his minority; he was created Earl of Seaforth and
Viscount Fortrose in 1623 by James VI, lived at ^{Castle} Chanonry which he
built in addition to Castle Brahan; died 1633.