

MacPherson: one of two principal branches of Clan Chattan (pronounced "Hollin"); the Celtic name for MacPherson is Clan Muirich (or Muirich from the ancestor of that name who in Gaelic MSS of 1450 is said to be son of Swinn, son of Heth, son of Nachter, son of Gillicattan.) Gillicattan means "rotary or servant of Saint Kattan", a Scottish saint. The badge is boxwood; Slogan: "Creag dhubb chloinn chatan" ("The black Rock of clan Chattan"); motto: "Touch not the cat but a glove". Crest: a wild cat (or catamount).

Sir Aeneas MacPherson, Advocate in Scotland (1630-1685) compiled "The lineage of MacPherson":

Descended from a war-like people in Germany called the Chatti who resisted the Roman empire's power but were forced to migrate to Scotland 76 AD, giving their name to Chatti'sness or Point, afterwards Caithness. They multiplied and overspread the north of Scotland, their southern wing being called South Chatti or Sutherland. The Chatti lived in Caithness & Sutherland for centuries, joining with some Picts & Scots. After King Kenneth II gained the victory over the Picts, the inhabitants of Caithness were forced to settle in Lochaber where descendants still live.

1. Gillicattan Moir (Moir), chief of Clan Chattan in the reign of King Malcolm Canmore, his son;
2. Diarmid (or Dormund) succeeded c. 1090, father of Gillicattan II
3. Gillicattan II, Captain of Clan Chattan; 2 sons: Diarmid + 1153 (sp) and
4. Muirnach (or Murdoch) succeeded 1153, Parson of Kingussie, obtained a papal dispensation in 1173 to marry a daughter of ^{the Thanes of} Calder by whom he had 5 sons: 1. Gillicattan 2. Ewan (or Engine Baan), 3. Neil Cromb (round-shouldered) ironsmith, progenitor of many Smiths of Scotland, 4. Ferquhard Gillisrach (Swift) progenitor of the McGillivrays of Drummalesh in Inverness & of Pennygoat in Isle of Mull, 5. David Dow (Black) from whom Davidsons of Inverhaver descend.
5. Gillicattan III left one son only;
6. Dougal Phaal (or Daal) left an only daughter: (Lochaber estate)
7. Eva m. 1291 Angus Mcintosh, chief of clan Mcintosh who thus got most of Clan Chattan estate (Lochaber).
5. Ewan (Engine Baan) (fair-complexion) McParson: 3 sons: Kenneth, John (Pitmean) & Gillies (Invernessie)
6. Kenneth McPherson settled at Badenoch married Isabel Mcintosh dau. of Ferquard McI. Issue: Duncan, Bran (Benjamin) of Brin.
7. Duncan McPherson of Clunie, ^{succeeded 1438} Captain of Clan Chattan, by commission of King Robert Bruce subdued the Cummings of Badenoch to obedience; "a hand & dagger" were added to his armorial bearings.
8. Donald Phaal McPherson of Clunie, father of;
9. Donald Moir McPherson of Clunie, fought ^{& defeated} Clan Cameron at Inverhaver; he led 30 McPs at North Inch of Perth against 30 clan Kay before the King with broadsword (29 killed of clan Kay); he married a dau. of Mcintosh of Lochaber: 2 sons: Donald Big & Gillicattan (over)

10. Donald Oig McPherson of Cluny, m. dau. of Gordon of Buckie: Isaac: Ewan (Eugene), Paul (McPherson of Dalifour)
11. Eugene (Ewan) McPherson of Cluny, + end of reign of King James III, son:
12. Downard McPherson had charter 6 Feb. 1509 from James IV of "terrarium de Straththearne, Germannuck", son:
13. Ewan McPherson of Cluny, friend of Queen Mary, married dau. of McIntosh of Stone: issue: Andrew (dsp.) & John
14. John McPherson of Cluny had charter from James III "Johanni McPherson villarum et terrarium de Tullich, Elrick... in vice comitatus de Inverness" 1594, fought at Glonlivet, son:
15. John McPherson of Cluny, charter dated 1613
16. Ewan McPherson of Cluny ^{m 1644, Anna dau. of Duncan Forbes of Culloden} + 1654 "Eugene McPherson terrarium et villarum de Tullich, Elrick" 1623 charter; ^{m. dau. of Donald McP. of Nuid.} Donald (dsp.), Andrew, John of Nuid, dau. m. John McPherson of Inverness and had sons; Andrew McP. of Cluny + 1666, loyalist, who m. dau. of Gordon of Etrabouk & had son Ewan.
17. John of Nuid m. dau. of ^{of Inverness} Fairweather (Donald, Wm., Andrew, Murdoch & Bessie & Janet)
18. Donald McP. of Nuid, m. dau. of Hugh Ross of Kiltreved: Wm., James, John & 7 daus.
19. Wm. McPh. of Nuid m. Isabel, dau. of Hauchlan McIntosh; Hauchlan, Andrew, James, William & 6 daus.

Clan MacPherson

Slogan: Creag Dhùbh (The Black Craig - a hill near Cluny.) Chloinn Chatain

Badge: Lus nan cràimhseag (Red Whortleberry); White Heather, Box wood

Clan MacPherson is a branch of Clan Chattan, deriving from Ewen Ban MacPherson, second son of Muiriach, Parson of Kingussie 1173, Chief of Clan Chattan, who married a daughter of the Thane of Calder under a papal dispensation and had two sons. The elder, Gilli-Chattan Mhor, had a grandson Dugall Phol, Chief of Clan Chattan, whose only daughter, Eva, "heretrix of Clan Chattan" married Angus Mackintosh of that Ilk and from them descend subsequent chiefs of Clan Chattan. Ewen Ban, second son of Muiriach, had three sons (from whom the MacPhersons are styled "the clan of the three brothers": 1. Kenneth, ancestor of Cluny; 2. Ian (from whom Pitmean) and Gillies, ancestor of Invereshie. Kenneth fought at the battle of Invernahaven 1375, leaving Duncan, Parson of Laggan 1438. His son, Donald Mhor first bore MacPherson as surname, being ancestor of Andrew who held the "three pleuchies" of Cluny-in-Badenoch. Andrew, reckoned 8th chief, acquired the abbey-castle of Grange in Strathisla 1618. His son Ewen, a Royalist under Montrose, had a son Andrew of Cluny MacPherson who died unmarried, & Duncan, 10th chief, the MacPherson of Cluny, in 1672 unsuccessful claimant for the Chiefship of Clan Chattan which Lord Lyon King of Arms officially declared 10 Sept. 1672 passed through Eva to Mackintosh. Upon Duncan's death 1722, Lachlan, 4th of Nuid, succeeded as chief, dying 1746. His son Ewen of Cluny (son-in-law of notorious Lord Lovat) was a famous Highland leader in the Rising of 1745. After Culloden he hid in Badenoch for nine years, faithfully supported by his clan & tenantry, and Cluny was restored 1784 to his son Duncan. His son Ewen of Cluny was recognized Chief of Clan MacPherson 1873 in Lyon Court and maintained the state of a Highland Chief until his 1885 death. At the death of his youngest son Albert Cameron MacPherson of Cluny (by tenantry 17th chief), the estate was sold, the arms & chiefship devolving upon his nephew Ewen George MacPherson of Cluny, 18th Chief of Clan MacPherson who resides in Adelaide, South Australia.

"When the Stewart princes published their Vestiarium Scoticum, Cluny was their friend and they gave him five or six different tartans all to himself - the Cluny tartan, the Hunting tartan, the Dress tartan, etc." Sir Thomas Lauder wrote to Sir Walter Scott 1 June 1829: "Cluny MacPherson appeared at the late fancy ball at Edinburgh in his beautiful and genuine tartan, as taken from the MS. (Vestiarium) which excited universal admiration." Cluny (born 1804, died 1885) wrote 1850: "The design was known as the Breacan Glas long before John (Sobieski) Stuart was heard of in this country. At all events the tartan is an old MacPherson." The tartan, now used and beloved of the MacPherson Clan, and marketed as "Hunting MacPherson" is the celebrated Breacan Glas, "the grey plaid of Badenoch" where of the exact sett used was copied 1745 from an old plaid at Cluny by the Jacobite chief's wife, the Hon. Jean Fraser, or Lovat, Lady Cluny-MacPherson. Found in the earliest collections, this sett is, with white ground, the dress tartan of the clan, and with grey ground (since the middle of the 18th century), the "Hunting Sett". The chief's tartan of black and white includes narrow red and yellow lines. When Cluny Castle was sold in 1933 the "Green Banner" and "Black Charter", with other treasures were saved by the Clan Trust which holds several acres of Clan MacPherson "country" in Badenoch.

"Touch not the cat but a glove."

Pipe Music: MacPherson's March.