

CLAN MACLAREN



Once upon so long a time ago that no man can now say when that time was, there was a mermaid. She lived in a loch in the very heart of the land called Alba. She saw the sun rise over the peak of Ben Vorlich and she saw it set behind the great hills that lie between Strathearn and Lorn. She fell in love with a mortal man and from their union was born the progenitor of the MacLarens.

Whether or not you believe in mermaids, the MacLarens are among the oldest recorded of the ancient Gaelic kindreds. The Clan takes its name from the Celtic Abbot, Labhran, who lived in the 1200s; but it existed as a community, with a shared ancestry, for centuries before adopting a shared patronymic. The genealogy of the Chiefs extends back a further six centuries to King Lorn Mor, himself of the royal house of Dalriada.

The traditional Clan lands are those of Balquhiddier and Strathearn in the central highlands. True to their Celtic origins, the MacLarens resisted the Crown's attempts to impose feudalism and we refused to apply for a charter for our lands. From our rallying point in the center of the glen, Creag an Tuirc (the Boar's Rock), we defended these fiercely. The earliest recorded clan battle took place in the 1400s when we faced a war party of Buchanans from Leny. No Buchanan returned home. The last confrontation (of several) was with the MacGregors. It was in 1734 when Rob Roy, frustrated in his attempt to seize MacLaren land, issued a challenge. Rob Roy lost the duel and died some weeks later.

Throughout Scottish history, the MacLarens were prominent in battle in support of the Kings of Scotland and the national cause. In the Wars of Independence, they were with William Wallace at the battle of Stirling Bridge; and under the banner of their kinsman, Malise, 7th Earl of Strathearn, with Bruce at Bannockburn. Together with our blood allies, the Stewarts of Appin, we fought consistently for the Royal Stuarts at Sauchieburn, Flodden and Pinkie; with Montrose in the later Wars of the Covenant; for James VII at Killiecrankie, for his son in 1715 and 1719 and for his grandson Charles Edward Stuart in the last Jacobite Rising of 1745-6.

Today, there are strong communities of MacLarens settled throughout the world, each with their own flourishing Clan Societies, not the least of which is the Clan MacLaren Society of North America. And wherever MacLarens gather, you will hear resounding loudly our ancient war cry: **CREAG AN TUIRC.**



**THE MACLAREN OF MACLAREN
and LADY MACLAREN**

Chief of Clan Labhran of Balquhiddier
and Strathearn