Historical Background

The origin of the McLeans/McLanes is interwoven into the history of two countries, Ireland and Scotland. Members of the McLean and McLane families participated in this history and were often adversely affected by it. For the remainder of this Chapter, reference to both the McLeans and the McLanes is made by using only the "McLean" spelling.

THE CELTIC PEOPLE AND THE SETTLEMENT OF IRELAND

The story of the origin of the McLeans basically starts in the same places and rises from the same peoples. The McLean origins begin with the settlement of Ireland by the Gaelic speaking Celtic Race who in their migrations settled parts of Scotland and inhabited areas of Ireland.

By the start of the Christian Era the various Celtic tribes inhabiting Ireland were apparently divided into the five kingdoms of Ulster, Meath, Leinster, Munster, and Connaught, whose rulers were subject to a high king dwelling at Tara. The Druids, or priests, and the bards, who sang historic tales, were figures of special power and prominence in those early days. In the fifth century, when St. Patrick carried on his famous missionary work, Christianity (Roman Catholic) became the religion of the island. Learning, music, and poetry flourished. Foreign students visited Ireland and Irish missionaries carried religion and scholarship to England, Scotland and the Continent.

THE SETTLEMENT OF SCOTLAND

Scotland is one of the oldest nations of western Europe. In its formation Gaels, Picts, Scots, Britons, Anglo-Saxons, and Norsemen all took part. The Gaels belonged to the branch of the Celtic peoples that reached Scotland from Central Europe in sixth century B.C. There they found the Picts, a people of mysterious origin who may have come from the Continent as early as 1000 B.C. The Gaels and Picts joined in defying the Romans when these world conquerors began their invasion of Northern Britain about A.D. 80. Although the Romans succeeded in getting as far north as the central lowlands, they never succeeded in subduing the fierce barbarians, and early in the fifth century the Roman legions were finally withdrawn. All of Britain then became the prey of new invaders and settlers.

The first of the colonies in Western Scotland was Dalriada, founded early in the sixth century by Irish Celts, called Scots, in what is now Argyll County. The kingdom of Strathclyde arose in the seventh century when Britons driven northward from England by Anglo-Saxons settled in the Clyde Valley. The Teutonic migration reached Southeastern Scotland in the sixth century when the Anglo-Saxons established Bernicia, later a part of the kingdom of Northumbria. Although the Gaels and Picts maintained their hold over Pictavia, the Norsemen extended their control along the northern coast and on the three outlining archipelagoes between the ninth and eleventh centuries.

Scotland had its first contact with Christianity early in the fifth century when the British missionary, St. Columba, carried the message of Christianity to the Northern Picts from the monastery which he had established on Iona in the Hebrides.

431 St. Patrick brings Christianity to Ireland. 563 St. Columba brings Christianity from Ireland to the Island of Iona in Scotland. 850 Viking discovery of Iceland 875 First settlers from Norway arrive in Iceland. 960 United Denmark established under Harald Bluetooth, Denmark converts to Christianity. 1002 Brian Boru recognized as High King of Ireland. 1034 Duncan I becomes first King of Scotland. 1314 Sir William Wallace wins the battle at Bannockburn. The McLeans take the side of Wallace and Robert the Bruce. 1380 Iceland and Norway come under Danish Crown. 1397 Union of Kalmar established single monarch over Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. 1536 Evangelical Lutheran Church becomes the State Church of Denmark and Iceland. 1560 John Knox establishes the Protestant (Presbyterian) Church as the State Church of Scotland. 1583 England establishes Protestant rule over Ireland. 1610 The plantation period in Ulster brings many Scottish settlers to Northern Ireland. 1690 Battle of Boyne, William of Orange's Protestant forces win against the Irish Catholic forces. 1695 English begin efforts to eliminate the Gaelic language from Scotland. 1710 Irish penal laws established prohibiting the practice of the Catholic faith and Catholics owning land in Ireland. 1716 McLeans fight the English in the Jacobite rebellions and lose much of their titles and estates because of their stance. 1746 Disarming Act prohibits wearing arms, kilts, or tartan garments or playing the pipes in Scotland. 1783 Catastrophic volcanic eruptions and earthquakes in Iceland. 1798 Rebellion in County Wexford, Ireland led by Father John Murphy. 1801 United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland formed. 1810-1831 McLane Irish ancestors emigrate to Quebec. 1850 McLean Scottish ancestors emigrate to Ontario. 1866 Jensen Danish ancestors emigrate to Minnesota. 1875 Volcanic eruptions in Eastern Iceland.

1889 Samson Icelandic ancestors emigrate to North Dakota

ORIGIN OF THE SURNAME McLEAN

Although often pronounced differently (MakLane/ MakLeen), these names have the same root and Gaelic pronunciation but the different anglicized spellings. The name means "son of the servant of St. John." Gillean-an-Tuaidhe (Gillean of the battle-axe) is said to have been the ancestor of the Clan. However, there are many that may have joined or allied themselves to the Clan that might not be genetic descendants of Gillean. It is highly unlikely that the humble McLeans found in this book could ever be genealogically linked to Gillean is believed to have lived Gillean. during the fifth century on the Isle of Mull.

All MacLeans, MacLaines, MacLanes, McLeans, however they spell their name, are possible descendants of Gillean of the Battle Axe. The way a given family spells the name often depended on the first member of the family who was able to write and standardized the spelling. The concept that there is a Scottish spelling and an Irish spelling is false. All spelling variations can be found in both countries.

The name comes from the Gaelic "Mac Ghille Eoin" (son of the servant of St. John). The older Eoin has now been largely replaced by the modern Iain, and the "L" is all that remains of "gille." Hence the shortened and anglicized version, McLean.

HISTORY OF SCOTLAND

The first political union in Scotland was achieved in 844, when Pictavia and Dalriada were united under Kenneth MacAlpin as Kenneth I. The strong kingdom thus formed against encroaching Norsemen and Anglo-Saxons was known as Alba until early in the thirteenth century, when it was known as Scotland. In 1018, Malcolm II, after defeating the Anglo-Saxons, annexed the Lothian district

of Northumbria, thus extending the southern frontier of Scotland to approximately its present limit. Most of the mainland country was finally united in 1034, when Duncan I, King of Strathclyde, succeeded Malcolm II, his maternal grandfather.

Duncan was killed in 1040 by General Macbeth, who despite Shakespeare's villainous characterization, ruled competently until overthrown in 1057 by Duncan's son, Malcolm III. Because of the influence of Malcolm's English-born queen, Margaret, the central lowlands in particular became an English speaking region with a culture modeled on that of the Anglo-Saxons to the south. Early in the twelfth century Malcolm's son, David I, not only introduced feudalism but developed a ruling class whose interests differed greatly from those of the Celtic masses of Scotland. Although some of the clan chieftains became vassals, the majority of the king's liegemen were Anglo-Normans who, in doing homage for their lands, held most of the southern peasants as serfs.

Finally in 1174, when William the Lion of Scotland was captured on his invasion of northern England, he was forced to sign the Treaty of Faliase whereby he not only became a vassal of Henry II, but placed the entire Scottish kingdom under the lordship of the English Crown. The Scots did not regain their independence until 1189, when Richard I of England sold them their freedom for funds with which to finance the Third Crusade.

The Consolidation of Scotland was nearly completed during the reign of Alexander III, when the Scots defeated the Norsemen in 1263 and thus gained control of the Hebrides and the coastal plain of the highlands region.

Upon the mysterious death of the young Norwegian Princess Margaret, granddaughter and heiress of Alexander III, thirteen claimants to the throne appeared. The strongest were John de Baliol and Robert de Bruce. Edward I 10 Island Roots

of England arbitrated the claim and awarded the crown to Baliol in 1292. The new monarch had to swear fealty to him. Four years later, goaded into rebellion by Edward's oppressive measures against the Scots, Baliol made an alliance with France. In protest, the English invaded Scotland in 1296, and the massacre of the citizens of Berwick was the prelude to a ruthless war that resulted in Baliol's abdication.

Although Scotland was now under an English military government, the popular revolt was renewed by Sir William Wallace, who won one of the greatest victories in Scottish history at the Battle of Stirling Bridge (1297). A year later, however, the Scots were defeated at Falkirk, and Wallace was eventually betrayed to the English and executed in 1305. In 1306, Robert Bruce, grandson of the original candidate for the Scottish throne, was crowned Robert I. After seven years of guerrilla warfare Bruce routed Edward II's army at the Battle of Bannockburn (1314).

In 1333, during the reign of Bruce's son, the incompetent David II, English forces scored a great victory at Hailidon Hill and made Edward de Baliol their vassal king. Baliol ceded almost half of the southern uplands to England's Edward III, and it was not until 127 years later, during the reign of James II, that the Scots finally expelled the English from the southeastern counties.

The death of the childless David II in 1371 brought the first of the Stuart dynasty to the Scottish throne - Robert II. The ablest of his successors was James I, who for about eighteen years was a prisoner of England's Henry IV and Henry V. When finally released and crowned (1424), James initiated reforms and to a certain extent curbed the power of the feudal lords and brought about commercial, agricultural, and legal improvements. He also established a two-chamber Parliament, similar to that of England, but retained the Council of

the Lords of the Articles to function between sessions.

Scotland took part in England's War of the Roses on the side of the House of Lancaster and recognized the claim of Perkin Warbeck, who attempted to oust the Tudor king Henry VII. In 1497, however, James IV concluded a truce with England and six years later he obtained English recognition of an independent Scottish crown by marrying Henry's daughter Margaret. Although this "union of the thistle and the rose" led a century later to the union of the Scottish and English crowns, it did not prevent the outbreak of hostilities when Scotland once again allied itself with France. After Henry VIII went to war with France, James invaded northern England and was defeated and slain in the Battle of Flodden Field (1513).

James V tried to improve the lot of the common people when he assumed control in 1528. He also protected the Roman Catholic Church, refusing to follow the example of his uncle Henry VIII in severing all ties with the Papacy and founding a national church like the Church of England. The Scottish alliance with France was strengthened through the King's two marriages, the first to a daughter of Francis I, and the second to Mary of Guise.

The child of James' second marriage was the ill-fated Mary Stuart, who became queen one week after the English had defeated her father in the Battle of Sloway Moss (1542). Her reign was a particularly turbulent one because of the attempt of her Catholic followers to place her on the English throne, which the Protestant-supported Elizabeth I ascended in 1558. The story of her unfortunate marriages, of her forced abdication in favor of her infant son, and of the nineteen years she spent in English prisons before her execution is told in her biography.

During the regency of Mary of Guise, the short reign of Mary, Queen of Scots, and the minority of James VI the Reformation gained momentum in Scotland. It was led by John Knox, who had been influenced during his exile on the Continent by the teachings of John Calvin. In 1560, Knox drew up a Confession of Faith which paved the way for the establishment of the church government and doctrine known as Presbyterianism.

Mary's ambitions were fulfilled in her son, who accended to the English throne as James I on Elizabeth's death in 1603. In his attempt to establish a uniform church government in both Scotland and England, James initiated the long struggle between the Church and the Crown which was carried on by all of his Stuart successors. His object was to substitute the episcopacy (government by bishops appointed by the king) for presbytery (government by democratic assemblies of ministers and elders). The struggle reached its height under Charles I, who, with the aid of Archbishop Laud, continued to impose the rites of the Anglican Church despite the signing of the National Covenant, by which Scottish Presbyterians pledged defense of their faith.

The indecisive Bishop's war of 1639-40 were followed by the English Civil War between the King and the Puritan-dominated Parliament. In the Civil War the Scots sided with the Puritans, helping Cromwell to win the Battle of Marston Moor (1644), but five years later, outraged by the execution of Charles I, they defied the Commonwealth by recognizing his son, Charles II. After Charles II had been restored to the English throne in 1660, Charles broke faith with the Scots in regards to his promise of liberty of conscience. The Coventers' uprisings, which followed in the wake of Restoration attempts to reimpose the episcopacy, continued until suppressed at the Battle of Bothwell Bridge (1679).

The Scots did not achieve freedom for royal absolutism until the reign of William III. The crowning of William and his wife Mary, a daughter of James II, was accompanied in 1689

by the enactment of the Declaration of Rights and the passage of the Act of Toleration, which restored religious freedom to the realm.

McLEANS IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

The first record of the name MacLean appears to have been in 1296 when Gilmore MacLyn was one of the Scottish nobles to render homage to Edward I. The early history of the MacLean clan is somewhat obscure, although it appears Argyllshire was the location of its origin.

The first MacLeans to be found on record appear in 1326 as supporters of King Robert the Bruce and it is as followers of the Bruce's ally, the Lord of the Isles, that they rose to prominence. Because the MacLeans were supporters of Robert the Bruce, they most likely fought on the side of Sir William Wallace as well.

During the early fourteenth century the head of the family, Iain Dubh MacLean, settled on the Isle of Mull and had two sons. From them descend the two branches of the clan; Lachlan Lubanach - progenitor of the MacLeans of Duart, and Eachin Reganach - progenitor of the MacLaines of Lochbuie. The Clan were vassals of the MacDonalds, Lords of the Isles, and in their own right controlled Mull, Coll, Tiree and on the mainland, Morven, Ardgour and Kingairloch.

An ensuing feud began with the MacDonalds that was to last until 1498. Their territory ranged from Coll and Tiree to Ardgour on the mainland, though the main families remained MacLeans of Duart (Chief) and MacLaines of Lochbuie, both in Mull. Their Chief fell protecting James IV at Flodden.

The Lord of the Isles granted estates to a number of MacLeans. Probably the senior branch of the family was Lochbuie. The most 12 Island Roots

powerful however was MacLean of Duart who increased his power and prestige by marrying his patron's daughter and controlling the Lord of the Isles' major strongholds.

After the downfall of the Lord of the Isles in the late 15th Century, the leading MacLean families held their lands directly from the monarch. Their estates became "Baronies," this meant not only that they had increased prestige and had a vote but that they also had legal jurisdiction over the inhabitants on their estates.

At this stage MacLean of Lochbuie, whose headquarters was the Castle of Moy in the south east of the Isle of Mull, probably still had the largest estate. Lochbuie was soon to be eclipsed by MacLean of Duart whose stronghold still dominates the southern approaches to the Sound of Mull. In the 16th century Duart had a series of able and energetic chiefs who endeavored to make themselves the chief of all the name MacLean, a claim that was bitterly resisted by Lochbuie and MacLean of Coll who both fought a number of battles against their ambitious kinsman.

MacLean of Duart's power increased again at the Reformation when he obtained the Church's lands in Coll, Tiree and Mull (including Iona). It also increased in alliance with the Campbells. For contrary to popular belief, the two clans were usually on the same side when both clans were expanding at the expense of the MacDonalds. This despite occasional little local difficulties such as when Duart put his Campbell wife on a rock (the Lady's Rock) that was covered at high tide as "they did not agree behind the curtain," only for her to be rescued by her brother.

The two families, MacLean and Campbell, were natural allies because both were Protestant and both had reason to dislike the MacDonalds who were Roman Catholics. Duarts power reached its zenith in the late sixteenth century under the leadership of Sir

Lachlan mor MacLean who hired Spanish soldiers from an Armada galleon which had sought refuge in Tobermory, to chastise the MacDonalds. Sir Lachlan plotted with his

TARTAN

The story of tartan and the history of Scotland are intertwined like the pattern of tartan itself. Although the date of the origins of tartan is not known, the clan system in Scotland started around the 12th century. Tartan's complex design of interwoven patterns and the interplay of colors reflect the intricate nature of Celtic art. Different colors and varying patterns began to develop as the weavers in each area or clan developed their individual patterns and colors which depended on the dyes available in the area. As a result, particular styles of tartan began to be associated with an area or clan. Following the disintegration of the clan system after the second Jacobite rising in 1745, the wearing of tartan became illegal, except in Highland Regiments. The old loyalties never truly died away and building on the honor achieved by the courageous fighting of the Highland Regiments, the wearing of tartan began to be endorsed by the Royal Court. This, combined with the dispersal of the Scots due to the Highland Clearances carried the story of tartan to a global stage. The fascination with tartan now spans the world and is one of the most remarkable social phenomena.

cousin and great friend, the Earl of Argyll, Chief of Clan Campbell, to bring mercenaries to Ulster to assist the English against Irish rebels. Instead he was killed in a skirmish with the MacDonalds at Lochgruinart in Islay in 1598.

Sir Lachlan's death marked the end of



McLean of Duart dress tartan

cooperation between the MacLeans and the Campbells. The following century was to be a time of expansion for the Campbells and decline for the MacLeans. However, ninety years after the death of Sir Lachlan and after all the traumas of the seventeenth century, the MacLeans once again dominated the Isles of Mull, Coll and Tiree as well as the adjacent mainland districts of Morvern and Ardgour. They occupied most of the land; they owned the great herds of cattle that grazed there; they held the major fortresses at Duart, Moy and Aros in Mull, Breacachadh in Coll, Huilipol in Tiree, Cairnburg in the Treshnish Isles, Kinlochaline and Drimnin in Movern. Their birlinns, the single masted, twelve oared, shallow drafted longships that made the seas a highway rather than a barrier, controlled the sea lanes of the Inner Hebrides.

The MacLeans and their allies also dominated the political and cultural scene in the Mull division of Argyll, as MacLeans country was officially called. A MacLean from (Brolas) was Member of Parliament, a MacLean (Knock) was Bishop of Argyll. All the parish ministers were members of the hereditary learned families who served the

MacLeans.

A MacLean judge (Alexander) was Commissary of Argyll. A MacLean tax collector (Gruline) was collector of Cess (land tax) for the Mull division, a post of considerable financial profit to the holder. A MacLean (Coll) took one of the first companies of mercenary soldiers from the Hebrides to Europe, to serve in the Scots Brigade in Dutch service. In Coll, Donald MacLean was importing tradesmen from Greenock to alter his castle and make it a modern gentlemen's residence.

Throughout the islands of the Inner Hebrides in the late 1680s, a renaissance of the clan MacLean was under way after the long years of strife with the Campbells that began in the civil wars of the 1640s and continued until the fall of the ninth Earl of Argyll in the early 1680s. The years of the MacLean ascendancy did not, however, last for long. It was destroyed by the revolution of 1689.

The Crowning of William (of Orange) and Mary was an event that had vast implications for the subsequent history of Great Britain and the United States. In the highlands of Scotland it probably had greater effect on the MacLeans than on any other clan save perhaps the MacDonalds of Glencoe. It has since altered the lives of everyone who bears the name MacLean.

The MacLeans were by necessity Jacobites since the Earl of Argyll was on the other side. The MacLeans performed great feats of arms by land and sea on behalf of King James. They were considered the most effective troops in Dundee's army which defeated the Orangemen at the Battle of Killiekrankie in 1689, but although the Jacobites won the battle they lost the war. The Earl of Argyll invaded Mull. Most MacLeans surrendered and grudgingly swore allegiance to King William. The long decline of the MacLeans had begun.

By the end of the 1690s the Duart estate

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was firmly in the hands of the Earl of Argyll who took the subsidiary title of "Lord of Mull, Morvern and Tiree" when he became Duke in 1702. The Episcopal church, which the MacLeans supported, was overturned; episcopal ministers were deprived of their livings. In the new Presbyterian order in the Church of Scotland there was no longer to be a Bishop of Argyll, instead the church was run by committees which were increasingly dominated by the Campbells. A Campbell also became Commissary of Argyll; another became collector of the Cess in Mull.

Not all MacLeans lost their land to Argyll in the 1690s. Duart had not been the landlord of all MacLeans in Lochbuie, Coll, Kingerloch, Ardgour, Kinlochaline, Torloisk, Drimnin and Kilmory. All still held all or part of their lands directly from the King. The MacLeans would once again fight for the sovereignty of Scotland. The Jacobites soon became dissatisfied after the Act of Union joining England and Scotland. In response to a call to the clans by King James, the McLeans took up arms. They met the English forces at Sheriffmuir in November of 1715. At the outset of the engagement that followed, the Macleans and MacDonalds, on the right of the Jacobite line, threw off their plaids and charged the enemy with the claymore (sword). "Gentlemen," said MacLean of Duart, a veteran of Killiecrankie, placing himself at the head of his Clan and looking across to where Argyll had drawn up his troops over against them, "this is a day we have longed wished to see. Yonder stands MacChailein Mor for King George. Here stands MacLean for King James. God bless MacLean and King James. Gentlemen, charge."

In the second half of the 18th Century the vast increase in the number of officers required for Britain's imperial wars forced the Duke of Argyll to give grudging support to MacLeans for commissions in the army. Such

commissions were limited to a few families who had preserved their status as gentlemen. Even members of these privileged families were however forced to turn their hands to tasks that had little social prestige. For instance, in the 1750s, Murdoch MacLean, who was later to inherit Lochbuie, commanded a regiment and became Deputy Lieutenant for Argyll, was apprenticed to a linen manufacturer. Farquhar MacLean, a member of the Kilmory family, was a joiner in Mull.

By the end of the 18th Century a number of MacLeans had re-established their position in society; the vast expansion of the British Empire could not do without them. One MacLean in particular, Allan, Torloisk's brother, achieved lasting fame when he saved Canada from absorption into the United States by his defense of Quebec. But few other MacLeans got to the top of their professions without the help of a patron. They had taken too long climbing the first crucial steps. The few MacLean landowners who survived found it hard enough to support their own immediate relations.

HISTORY OF IRELAND AND THE McLANES

Henry VIII, who adopted the title of King of Ireland in 1514, sought to make Ireland, as well as England, Protestant. Destroying monasteries, confiscating lands, and executing opponents, he launched a period of violence which continued throughout the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. Elizabeth made the Anglican Church the official Church of Ireland; and it was during her reign that the Irish in the northeast counties (Ulster) were driven out and their lands settled by Protestant Scots. English authority spread, but Irish resistance only increased. In 1641, 30,000 Protestants were killed in an Irish uprising. Eight years later



McLean of Duart hunting tartan

Oliver Cromwell's invading army won temporary submission by means of mass slaughter and unbelievable cruelty. This period became known as the Plantation of Ulster.

In the Master Book of Irish Surnames, Locations, Ethnicity, Spellings, and Sources by Michael C. O'Laughlin, the name McLean was first known in Derry (Londonderry) in 1686. The name was known from legend to have originated from Scotland. It is said that some of the early McLean arrivals in Ireland were either mercenaries in service to the McDonalds or were actual Scottish tenants on the lands in Ulster previously occupied by the Irish prior to the Plantation of Ulster.

England's James II, a Catholic, fled to Ireland after his abdication in 1688. The Irish supported his plans to regain the throne. But in 1690, William of Orange (William III) led an army into Ireland and destroyed James' forces in the Battle of the Boyne. The Scotch and English of Ulster, allies of William, became known as Orangemen. A treaty was drawn up, promising the Irish some rights and freedoms,

but it was rejected by the Parliaments of both lands. In this black period, Irish emigrated to the American colonies in great numbers.

According to *The Scotch Irish* by Bill and Mary Durning, by 1750, the surname McLean and its various spellings was present in the Ulster Counties of Donegal, Antrim, Tyrone, and Armagh.

In 1778 the Irish were given the right to acquire land, open schools, and exercise their religion with fewer restrictions. However, continuing dissatisfaction contributed to the Rebellion of 1798 that was led by a Father John Murphy in and around Enniscorthy in the County Wexford.

In 1800, the Act of Union abolished the Irish Parliament, making Ireland a part of the United Kingdom. The country was represented in the British Parliament only by Protestants until 1829, when the Emancipation Act opened the way for Catholics to serve in the legislature. Daniel O'Connell, who helped accomplish this reform, was one of the leading Irish patriots of the period, as was the beloved Robert Emmet, who was hanged after leading an unsuccessful rebellion in 1803.

OTHER SYMBOLS AFFILIATED WITH THE SURNAME McLEAN

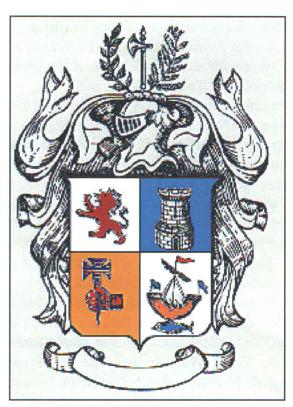
The motto of the Clan McLean is: "Virtue mine honour." It is usually displayed with a castle crest. There are two commonly available "coats of arms" under the surname McLean. However, it should be noted, as described in following text box, that coat of arms are not granted to families, but only individuals. There may have been at one time individuals that bore the name McLean that were granted these coat of arms. The illustrations offered here are for information purposes only.

HERALDRY

Heraldry is the recording of family lineage traced to an individual who was granted a coat of arms. The coat of arms was expressed through the symbols used on shields or escutcheons. The coat of arms was granted only to individuals and not to families. They first appeared on the seals used for family documents. Then they were used to decorate castles and their furnishings. Later they became important in marking a knight's shield, so he could be recognized in battle even though he wore a closed helmet. His coat of arms often appeared not only on his shield but also on his banner, his horse's harness, his saddle, and his tomb. Today such insignia are often used by families, yet they are in most cases not entitled to use the coat of arms.



The McLean coat of arms



The McLane coat of arms