

## **THE CLAN CHATTAN.**

*From William Skene's Highlanders of Scotland, published in 1837.*

When the almost universal extinction of the Highland earls threw the Highland clans into the independent and disunited state in which they latterly existed, we find few of them in possession of such extensive territories as the Clan Chattan. The whole of Badenoch, with greater part of Lochaber, and the districts of Strathnairn and Strathdearn, were inhabited by the various septs of this clan, and previous to the grant made to Comyn these districts were held of the crown by the chief of the clan.

From the earliest period, this clan has been divided into two great branches, respectively following as leaders Macpherson of Cluny and Macintosh of Macintosh, both of whom claim the chiefship of the whole tribe. The descent of the former family from the old chiefs of the clan, has never been doubted, but the latter family has hitherto considered itself as possessing a different descent from the rest of the clan Chattan. The earl of Fife, of the name of Macduff, is claimed as its ancestor, alleging that the chiefship of the Clan Chattan was obtained about the end of the thirteenth century by marriage with Eva, the daughter and heiress of Gillepatrick, the son of Dugall Dall, son of Gillichattan, the chief of the clan.

But independently of the manifest unlikelihood of a tale so clearly opposed to the Highland principles of succession and clanship, the more fact of this family styling themselves captains of the clan, claiming a foreign origin, and asserting a marriage with the heiress of its chief, leads to the strong presumption that they were the oldest cadets of the clan by whom the chiefship had been usurped, while the manuscript of 1450 puts it beyond doubt that this story is not only an invention, but one subsequent to the date of the MS.,

and that the Macintoshes are as radically a branch of the Clan Chattan as the Macphersons - for that invaluable record of Highland genealogies deduces the Macphersons and the Macintoshes from two brothers, sons of Gillecattan Mor, the great founder of the Clan Chattan. That there has long existed a keen dispute with regard to the chiefship of the Clan Chattan between the Macphersons and Macintoshes is certain, and while the Macphersons have hitherto rested their claims upon tradition alone, the Macintoshes have triumphantly brought forward charters and documents of every description in support of their alleged title. But the case is now altered, and the investigations which we have made into the history of the tribe of Moray, as well as into the history and nature of Highland tradition, show that the fact of the Macphersons being the lineal and feudal representatives of the ancient chiefs of Clan Chattan rests upon historic authority, and that they possess that right by blood to the chiefship, of which no charters from the crown, and no usurpation, however successful and continued, can deprive them.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Alexander Mackenzie of Inverness, the editor of 'The Celtic Magazine' and of 'The Scottish Highlander,' so well known as the author of so many clan histories, and intimately conversant with the subject, gives similar testimony. "There has been," he says, "a long and warm controversy between the Chiefs of Mackintosh and the Chiefs of Macpherson, and others interested in them, regarding the Chiefship of the great Clan Chattan, with the result that it is allowed by all disinterested parties that Cluny is undoubtedly the Chief and male heir of that powerful and numerous clan, while the Mackintoshes were for centuries its actual leaders or 'Captains,' in virtue of the marriage of Angus Mackintosh, sixth Chief of that Ilk, with Eva, daughter and only child of Dugall Dall, the undoubted and acknowledged Chief of Clan Chattan in his day. There are various

The MS. of 1450 puts it beyond all doubt that the Macphersons and the Macintoshes are descended from Neachtan and Neill, the two sons of Gillechattan Mor, the founder of the race; while the title of captain, the assertion of a foreign origin, and of a marriage with the heiress of the former chiefs, as certainly point out that the Macintoshes were a usurping branch, and that the Macphersons, whose descent from the old chiefs is not denied, alone possessed the right of blood to that hereditary dignity. The history of the earls of Moray is equally conclusive that the descendants of Neachtan, from whom the Macphersons deduce their origin, were the eldest branch and chiefs of the clan. The son of Neachtan is Head, or Heth, and although he married the sister of the last Maormor of Moray, yet that in his own person he possessed a right to the earldom, independently of his marriage, appears from the fact that he must have succeeded in 1085, before the title of earl or the feudal succession was introduced. His grandson, by his eldest son Angus, was Malcolm Macbeth, whose title to the earldom, and consequently to the chiefship of his clan, was acknowledged by all the Gaelic part of the population of Scotland, and even by the Norwegian earl of Orkney, while his grandson by his younger son Suibne, was Muirich, from whom the Macphersons take their name of the Clan Vuirich.

On the death of the last descendant of Angus, his claims were taken up by Gillespie, and as he unquestionably possessed the districts of

---

instances in Highland history where the husband of the heiress of the Chief became the leader or ' Captain ' of the clan, but we are not acquainted with a single instance where the Chiefship descended through a female." - Vide *Celtic Magazine*, i. 1878, 202.

For Skene's latest views as to the descent of the Mackintoshes, see his *'Celtic Scotland,'* vol. iii., second edition, 1890, PP. 356-358

Badenoch and Lochaber before the feudal barons acquired possession of it, he must have been chief of the Clan Chattan, the ancient possessors of these districts. This is singularly corroborated by the fact that the oldest traditions styled Gillichattan, the grandfather of Gillipatrick, whose daughter is said to have married Macintosh, MacGillespic, or son of Gillespic, while he must have lived at that very time. Gillespie was certainly not a descendant of Angus, Earl of Moray, but his claim to the earldom proves that he must have been a descendant of Head. The identity of the MacHeth family with the chiefs of the clan Chattan is therefore clearly established, and at the same time the descent of the clan Vuirich or Macphersons from these chiefs is proved by the MS. of 1450.

This statement, supported as it is by the MS., and by documentary evidence of an antiquity far greater than any which the Macintoshes can produce, at once establishes the hereditary title of the Macphersons of Cluny to the chiefship of clan Chattan, and that of the Macintoshes to their original position of oldest cadets of the clan.

The circumstances which led to the establishment of the Macintoshes as captains of Clan Chattan can likewise be traced, and tend still more strongly to confirm the position which has been adopted.

As the whole territory of Moray was at this period in the possession of different Lowland barons, in virtue of their feudal rights only, we know but little of the history of the various clans inhabiting that district till the fourteenth century; nevertheless, it is certain that the Clan Chattan, with its different clans, continued to acknowledge the rule of one common chief as late as that period, for the historian, John Major, after mentioning that the two tribes of the Clan Chattan and Clan Cameron had deserted Alexander of the Isles after his defeat by King James I., in the year 1429, adds, "These two tribes

are of the same stock, and followed one head of their race as chief." From other sources we know that these clans were at this time separate from each other, and were actually engaged in mutual hostilities. But, notwithstanding, the passage distinctly proves that these clans had very shortly before followed one chief as head of their respective races.

It appears, therefore, that some event must have occurred about this time to occasion disunion among the different branches of the clan, and it is impossible to avoid being struck with the remarkable coincidence in point of time between this rupture and the singular conflict between the chosen champions of the two clans upon the North Inch of Perth in the year 1396, which the works of Sir Walter Scott have recently made so generally familiar, but which has nevertheless baffled every enquirer into its cause or as to the lineage of its actors.

According to the oldest authorities, the names of these clans were clan Yha and the clan Quhele, not the clan Kay and the clan Chattan, as they have generally been called. At the end of the contest it was found that only one of the clan Yha had survived, while eleven of the clan Quhele were still existing although severely wounded, upon which it was determined by the king that the clan Quhele were the victors. Now there are but three clans in which any tradition of this conflict is to be found, that of the Camerons, the Macphersons, and the Macintoshes, and it is obvious that the memory of so remarkable a circumstance could never have been suffered to escape the enduring character of Highland tradition. The circumstance which attended the conflict, however, clearly indicate the Macphersons and Macintoshes as the actors. From the brief but contemporary accounts which have reached us, we can only learn two facts connected with its cause: first, that the dispute had broken out very shortly before; and secondly, that the singular

mode of determining it was carried into effect by Sir David Lindsay and the earl of Moray.

In ascertaining who the clans were who were engaged in this conflict, we must therefore look for some change in their situation immediately before the conflict, and for some especial connexion with the two noblemen who were principally interested in it. These are to be found in the Clan Chattan only; for first, by the death of the Wolfe of Badenoch, in 1394, that district, which was nearly equally inhabited by the Macphersons and the Macintoshes came into the crown, and thus those clans were suddenly relieved, but two years before the conflict, from the oppressive Government of that ferocious baron; and the attention of the clan would be at once turned from the necessity of defending themselves from the tyranny of their feudal superior, to their own dissensions, which, if such existed among them, would then break out; and secondly, it so happens that at that very period the remaining possessions of these two families were held of these two barons as their feudal superiors, the Macphersons holding the greater part of Strathnairn under Sir David Lindsay, and the Macintoshes being vassals of the earl of Moray, in Strathdearn. Every circumstance, therefore, leads us to suppose the Macphersons and Macintoshes to have been the parties engaged in that celebrated conflict. Soon after this period the chief of the Macintoshes assumes the title of Captain of Clan Chattan, but the Macphersons have always resisted that claim of precedence, and at this period also the Camerons seem to have separated from the Clan Chattan. I am inclined to assume from these circumstances that the Macintoshes were the clan Quhele.

In the MS. of 1450 the Macphersons are stated to be descended of a son of Heth, and brother of Angus, earl of Moray, and it will be observed that the name Heth is a corruption of the same Gaelic name which has been changed by these historians to Yha. Clan Heth must have been the most ancient name of the Macphersons, and it

follows that they were the clan Yha of the conflict. The leader of the Clan Yha is styled by the old authorities Sha Fercharson, that of the Clan Quhele Gilchrist Johnsonsone, and in the old MS. histories of the Macintoshes we find Gilchrist Mac Jan, at the period, while according to the MS. Of 1450, the chief of the Macphersons was Shaw, and his great-grandfather's name is Ferchar, from whom he probably took the patronymic of Fercharson. From all this we may reasonably deduce, that previous to the fifteenth century the various tribes forming the Clan Chattan obeyed the rule of one chief, the lineal descendant and representative of Gillecattan Mor, the founder of the Clan Chattan; that in consequence of the rebellion of Gillespie, then chief of that race, territories of the principal branch were forfeited and given to the Comyn, and consequently that the family of the chief gradually sunk in power while that of the oldest cadet of the clan,- i.e., Mackintosh, who was in consequence, after the chief, the most powerful, and whose principal lands were held under the easy tenure of the bishop of Moray and the good earl of Moray - gradually rose in power, until at length they claimed the chiefship, and from this cause arose the first disunion among the branches of this extensive tribe.

They became divided into distinct factions; on the one side there was ranged the Macphersons and their dependents, together with the Camerons; on the other side were the Macintoshes, with the numerous families who had sprung from that branch of the Clan Chattan; and they were about to settle their difference by open war when the interference of Sir David Lindsay and the earl of Moray produced the extraordinary conflict which resulted in the defeat of the faction adhering to the family of the ancient chiefs, and to the establishment of the Macintoshes as captains of clan Chattan.

In this manner the Macintoshes became the de facto chiefs of the clan, and consequently acquired the title of Captain, a title which at once indicates the absence of any right by blood to the chiefship,

and from this very circumstance is their name derived; Toshoch being unquestionably the title anciently applied to the oldest cadets of the different clans, and having no connexion whatever with the Saxon title of Thane, as has generally been asserted.

The conflict by which they finally established themselves in the power and dignity of head of the Clan Chattan took place in 1396. From this period until the latter part of the sixteenth century, they remained as leader of the clan, willingly followed by the cadets of their own house, and exacting obedience from the other branches of the clan, often refused, and only given when they were in no condition to resist. Soon after this period they appear to have become dependent upon the Lords of the Isles, and to have followed them in all their expeditions.

The first of the Macintoshes who appears in the records is Malcolm Macintosh, who obtained from the Lord of the Isles in 1447 a grant of the office of baillie or steward of the lordship of Lochaber, and the same office was given to his son, Duncan Macintosh, in 1466, along with the lands of Keppoch and others in Lochaber.

It is probable that he likewise obtained from the same lord that part of Lochaber lying between Keppoch and Lochaber, for on the forfeiture of the Lord of the Isles in 1475 he obtained a charter from James III.: "Duncano Macintosh, capitano de clan Chattan, terraruni de Moymore, Fern, Chamglassen, Stroncroy, Auchenheroy, &c.," dated 4th July 1476 ; and afterwards, in 1493, he obtained a charter from James IV., "terrarum de Keppoch, Innerorgan, &c., cum officio Ballivatus carundem."

Macintosh having probably rendered the government considerable assistance on that occasion, these grants were the cause of long and bitter feuds between the Macintoshes and the Camerons and the Macdonalds of Keppoch, the actual occupiers of the land.



From this period may be dated the commencement of the rise of the Macintoshes to the great influence and consideration which they afterwards possessed. Two causes, however, combined to render their progress to power slow and difficult, and at times even to reduce the clan to considerable apparent difficulties. These causes were, first, the dissensions among the Macintoshes themselves; and secondly, the continued feud which they had with Huntly in consequence of their strict adherence to the earl of Moray. The dissensions in the clan commenced in the early part of the sixteenth century, with the accession of William Macintosh of Dunachton to the chiefship. His title to that dignity appears to have been opposed by John Roy Macintosh, the head of another branch of the family; and after having in vain attempted to wrest the chiefship by force from William, John Roy at length murdered him at Inverness in the year 1515. The perpetrator of this treacherous deed did not, however, attain his object, for having been closely pursued by the followers of William Macintosh, he was overtaken at Glenesk and slain, while Lachlan, the brother of the murdered chief, was placed in possession of the Government of the clan. But Lachlan was doomed to experience the same fate as his brother, for, according to Lesly, "sum wicked persones being impatient of vertuous leiving, stirrit up ane of his awn principal kynnesmen, callit James Malcolmsone, quha cruellie and treasonable slew his said chief." On Lachlan's death his son was under age, and therefore the clan, in accordance with the ancient system of succession, chose Hector, a bastard brother, to be their chief.

The earl of Moray, who was the young chief's uncle, became alarmed for his safety, and in order to secure him against his brother's ambition, he carried him off to be brought up by his mother's relations. But Hector was determined to repossess himself of the person of the young heir, and with that view invaded the lands of the earl of Moray at the head of the clan; he besieged the

castle of Petty, which he took, and put the Ogilvies, to whom it belonged, to the sword. Upon this the earl obtained a commission from the king, and having raised his retainers, he attacked the Macintoshes and seized 300 of them, whom he instantly executed. Hector escaped and fled to the king, to whom he surrendered himself, and received from him a remission of his former offences, but he was soon after slain in St Andrew's; and the young heir, William Macintosh, after having been brought up by the earl of Moray, was put in possession of his inheritance.

According to Leslie, "William was sua well braught up be the meanes of the earl of Murray and the laird of Phindlater in vertue, honestie, and civil policie, that after he had received the government of his countrie, he was a mirrour of vertue to all the Heiland Captains in Scotland; hot fortune did envye his felicite, and the wicket practises of the dissoluit lives of his awne kin sufferit him nocht to remaine long amang them - but the same factious companie that raise againis his fader wes the cause of his destructionne."

Soon after the accession of William Macintosh to the chiefship, the feud between the Macintoshes and the earls of Huntly commenced, and it appears to have been instigated by the acts of Lachlan Macintosh, the son of the murderer of the last chief, who had been received into favour, but who was still bent on the destruction of the family of the chief. But however the feud may have originated, a subject upon which the accounts given in the different families are much at variance, it would appear that Macintosh commenced the hostilities by surprising and burning the castle of Auchindoun. Huntly immediately moved against the clan, with all the retainers which his extensive territories could furnish, and a fierce, though short struggle ensued, in which any clan less powerful than the Macintoshes would have been completely crushed; as it was, Macintosh found himself so unequal to sustain the conflict, that

despairing of obtaining any mercy from Huntly, he determined to apply to his lady, and for that purpose presented himself before her at a time when Huntly was absent and surrendered himself to her will. The marchioness, however, was as inexorable as her husband could have been, and no sooner saw Macintosh within her power than she caused his head to be struck off.

The death of William Macintosh occasioned no further loss to the clan, but, on the contrary, relieved them from the continuance of the prosecution of the feud with Huntly; for that nobleman found himself immediately opposed by so strong a party of the nobility who were related to Macintosh that he was obliged to cease from farther hostilities against them, and also to place the son of the murdered chief in possession of the whole of his father's territories, The government afterwards found the advantage of restoring Macintosh to his patrimony, and preserving so powerful an opponent to Huntly in the north; for when the queen nearly fell into Huntly's hands at Inverness in 1562, when that ambitious nobleman wished to compel her majesty to marry his second son, John Gordon of Findlater, the timely assistance of Macintosh assisted in defeating this plan. Soon after this the feud between Huntly and Macintosh once more broke out, and this circumstance was the cause of the final separation of the Macphersons from the Macintoshes, and the loud assertion by the former of their right to the chiefship, which they have ever since maintained; for Huntly, unable to meet the united force of the Clan Chattan, took advantage of the claims of the Macphersons to cause a division in the clan and in consequence of the support of this powerful nobleman the Macphersons were enabled to assert their right to the chiefship, and to declare themselves independent of the Macintoshes, if they could not compel the latter to acknowledge them as their chief.

The history of the Macphersons posterior to the unfortunate conflict on the North Inch of Perth becomes exceedingly obscure. As

they hold their lands of subject superiors, we lose the assistance of the records to guide us, neither do they appear in history independently of the rest of the clan. And it is only when at a late period they began to assert their claims to the chiefship, that they again emerge from the darkness by which their previous history was obscured. Previous to this period, finding themselves in point of strength altogether unable to offer any opposition to the Macintoshes they had yielded an unwilling submission to the head of that family, and had followed him as the leader of the clan; but even during this period they endeavoured to give to that submission as much as might be of the character of a league, and as if their adherence was in the capacity of an ally, and not as a dependent branch of the clan. In consequence of Huntly's support they now declared themselves independent, and refused all further obedience to the Captain of Clan Chattan, as Macintosh had been styled.

In this they succeeded as long as the feud continued between Huntly and Macintosh, but when at length Huntly became reconciled to his adversary, and consequently gave up his unfortunate ally Macpherson when he could derive no farther benefit from him, the Macphersons found themselves unable to withstand Macintosh, and many of them were obliged in 1609 to sign a bond along with all the other branches of the clan Chattan acknowledging Macintosh as their chief. But the long continued hostilities in which Macintosh soon after became engaged with the Camerons and other Lochaber clans enabled Macpherson again to separate from him; and during the whole of these wars Macintosh was obliged to accept of his assistance as of that of an ally merely, until at length in 1672 Duncan Macpherson of Cluny threw off all connexion with Macintosh, refused to acknowledge his authority as chieftain of the clan, and applied to Lyon office to have his arms matriculated as "Laird of Clunie Macphersonne, and the only and true

representer of the ancient and honorable familie of the clan Chattane," which he obtained; and soon after, when the privy council required all the Highland chiefs to give security for the peaceable behaviour of their respective clans, Macpherson obtained himself bound for his clan under the designation of Lord of Cluny and chief of the Macphersons; but his legal proceedings were not so fortunate as his resistance by arms had been, for no sooner was Macintosh aware of what had taken place, than he applied to the privy council and the Lyon office to have his own title declared, and those titles given to Macpherson recalled.

Both parties were now called upon to produce evidence of their assertions, but while Macintosh could produce deeds during a long course of years in which he was designated captain of clan Chattan, and also the unfortunate bond of Manrent which had been given in 1609, Macpherson had nothing to bring forward but tradition, and the argument arising from his representation of the ancient chiefs, which was but little understood by the feudalists of those days. The council at length gave a decision, which perhaps was as just a one as in the circumstances of the case could be expected from them. The judgment was in the following terms: "The lords of privy council, upon consideration of a petition presented by Duncan Macpherson of Cluny, and the laird of Macintosh, doe ordain McIntosh to give bond in these terms, viz.:- for those of his clan, his vassals, those descendit of his family, his men, tenants and servants, or dwelling upon his ground; and ordaine Cluny to give bond for those of his name of Macpherson descendit of his family, and his men, tenants and servants, but prejudice always to the Laird of McIntosh, bonds of relief against such of the name of Macpherson who are his vassals. (Subd) ROTHES." Upon this decision the arms were likewise recalled, and those of the Macphersons again matriculated as those of Macpherson of Cluny.

After this the Macintoshes remained in quiet possession of their hereditary territories, frequently at feud with Huntly and at other times at peace, and they appear to have constantly maintained the high station which they had acquired among the Highland clans with respect to power and extent of territory. Their feuds with the Camerons, with the accounts of which the earlier parts of their traditional history abound, terminated by the place of that clan becoming supplied by another whose possessions in the Braes of Lochaber placed them too near to the Macintoshes to avoid collision, and their natural disposition was of too turbulent a character not to give speedy cause of feud betwixt them. This clan was that of the Macdonalds of Keppoch, and the circumstance which gave rise to the feud was this, the Macdonalds had no other right to the lands they inhabited than that of long possession, while the Macintoshes held a feudal title to the property which they had obtained from the lord of the Isles, and which had been confirmed by the crown on their forfeiture. This feud continued for several years with various success, but was finally brought to a close by the last considerable clan battle which was fought in the Highlands.

Macintosh had come to the determination of making an effort to obtain something more than a mere feudal title to these lands, and with that view if possible to dispossess the Macdonalds. He accordingly raised as many of the clan as still adhered to him, notwithstanding the separation which had taken place not long before between the Macintoshes and the Macphersons, and marched towards Keppoch with the assistance of an independent company of soldiers furnished him by the Government.

On his arrival at Keppoch he found the place deserted, and he was engaged in constructing a fort in Glenroy, in order to leave a garrison behind him, believing himself secure from any opposition in the meantime, when he learnt that the Macdonalds of Keppoch had assembled together with their kindred tribes of Glengarry and

Glenco, and were stationed in great numbers at a place called Mulroy for the purpose of attacking him at daybreak. Macintosh immediately resolved upon anticipating this design, and forthwith marched upon the enemy, whom he found prepared for the conflict. The Macdonalds were stationed on the upper ridge under Coll. Macdonald of Keppoch, and the Macintoshes had nearly surmounted the height of Mullroy when the battle began. The contest though fierce and maintained with great obstinacy on both sides, was not of long duration, and ended in the defeat of the Macintoshes, the capture of their chief and the death of the commander of the independent company. But the battle had not been long closed when a large body of the Macphersons, who considering that the honour of Clan Chattan was compromised, had forgotten all former feelings of rivalry, suddenly appeared and prepared to assail the victors. Keppoch, although victorious, was in no condition to renew the contest with a fresh party, and he therefore agreed to surrender Macintosh to them, who accordingly had the double humiliation of having been captured by the Macdonalds, whom he despised as mere refractory tenants, and rescued by the Macphersons, whom he had treated with so little forbearance or consideration.

The Macphersons did not take any advantage of the chance which had placed Macintosh in their hands, but escorted him safely to his own estates, and from that time forward Keppoch remained undisturbed in his possessions, while the Macintoshes and Macphersons continued as separate and independent clans, the one possessing the title of captain, and the other claiming that of chief of Clan Chattan; for, notwithstanding the decision of the privy council, the Macphersons have ever since maintained themselves altogether distinct from the Macintoshes, and took an active share in the insurrections Of 1715 and 1745 as a separate clan, refusing to acknowledge the title of Macintosh to be either chief or captain of

Clan Chattan, and asserting their own preferable title. In the latter insurrection the name of Macpherson has become celebrated for the distinguished part which their chief took in that ill-fated expedition, but perhaps still more so for the conduct of the clan to their chief after the defeat of Culloden had terminated the hopes of the Stuarts, and exposed Cluny to the vengeance of the government.

There is perhaps no instance in which the attachment of the clan to their chief was so very strikingly manifested as in the case of the Macphersons of Cluny after the disaster of "the forty five." The chief having been deeply engaged in that insurrection, his life became of course forfeited to the laws, but neither the hope of reward nor the fear of danger could induce any one of his people to betray him. For nine years he lived concealed in a cave at a short distance from his own house; it was situated in the front of a woody precipice of which the trees and shelving rocks completely concealed the entrance. This cave had been dug out by his own people, who worked by night, and conveyed the stones and rubbish into a neighbouring lake in order that no vestige of their labour might appear, and lead to the discovery of the retreat. In this asylum he continued to live secure, receiving by night the occasional visits of his friends, and sometimes by day when time had begun to slacken the rigor of pursuit.

Upwards of one hundred persons were privy to his concealment, and a reward of one thousand pounds sterling was offered to any one who should give information against him; and besides, as it was known that he was somewhere concealed upon his own estate, a detachment of eighty men was constantly stationed there independent of the occasional parties that traversed the country throughout with a view to intimidate his tenantry and induce them by force or persuasion to disclose the place of his concealment, but although the soldiers were animated by the hope of reward, and



their officers by the promise of promotion for the apprehension of this proscribed individual, yet so true were his people, so inflexibly strict to their promise of secrecy, and so dexterous in conveying to him the necessaries he required in his long confinement, that not a trace of him could be discovered, nor an individual base enough to give a hint to his detriment. Many anecdotes are still related in the country of the narrow escapes he made in eluding the vigilance of the soldiery, and of the fidelity and diligence displayed by his clan in concealing him, until after ten years of this dreary existence he escaped to France, and there died in the following year.<sup>2</sup>

After his death the estate was restored to the present family, in whose possession it remains, and who are the lineal representatives of the ancient chiefs of the clan Chattan.<sup>3</sup>

Arms. - Parted per fess, or, and azure, a lymphad or galley, her sails furled? her oars in action, of the first ; in the dexter chief point a hand coupÈe, grasping a dagger pointed upwards, gules, for killing Cummine, Lord Badenoch - in the sinister point a cross croset, fitchÈe, gules.

Badge - Boxwood<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> This statement is quoted by Skene from the Sketches of General Stewart of Garth. In point of fact Cluny survived till 1764 - a period of nearly nine years after his escape to France in 1755. See letter on pp. 462, 463. [Reproduced as '1764 Letter' on this web site]

<sup>3</sup> "According to the History of the Mackintoshes and Clan Chattan, by Alexander Mackintosh Shaw, 1880, Ferquhard, the ninth chief, 'gave up a position which he had neither the ability to fill nor the wish to retain.' It would thus appear that the subsequent defacto heads of the Mackintoshes are not the legitimate chiefs of their own clan, to say nothing of their claim to be the chief of Clan Chattan. All Ferquhard's sons had issue, and they are said to have several descendants now living." - Mackenzie's History of the Macleods, 1889, p. 288

<sup>4</sup> The Macphersons have for a long period used white heather as a badge

Principal Seat - Strathnairn and Badenoch.

Oldest Cadet - Macintosh of Macintosh is oldest cadet, and was captain of the clan for a period of two centuries.

Chief - Cluny Macpherson.

Force - In 1704, 1400; in 1715, 1020; in 1745, 1700.