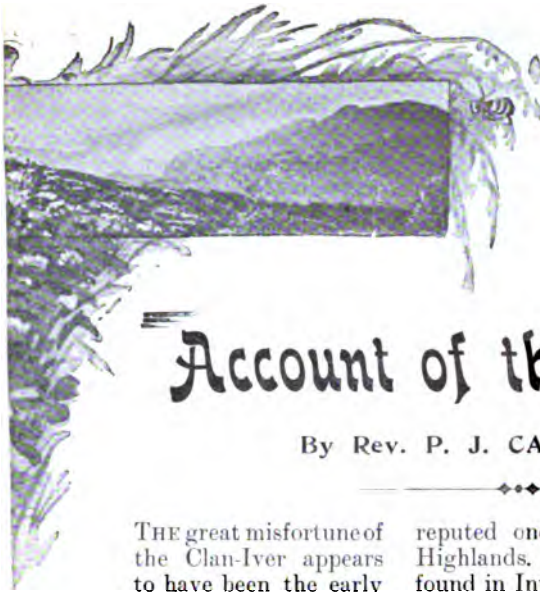


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Account of the Clan Iver.

By Rev. P. J. CAMPBELL, D.D.

THE great misfortune of the Clan-Iver appears to have been the early removal of its branches to parts of the country very distant from each other, consequent weakness as a Clan, to prevent its rise. Had it not been for this, the Clan would have filled a more conspicuous position in the Highlands.

It is difficult to form a correct estimate of the numbers of the Clan. All the MacIvers in Argyllshire having adopted the name of Campbell in the seventeenth century, the number of their descendants is not always ascertainable. It is, however, generally true that the individuals themselves, and not their names, are often found who boast of their descent from the families of the race in the Highlands.

In the present day, there may be about 200 bearers of the name of MacIver, Iverach, and Campbell; but a greater number descended from the name exist elsewhere.

A number of the descendants of the race in the Highlands and who trace their origin to the name of Iver remained in that county, is not known.

Several of them bear the name of Iver.

In the mainland of Ross-shire there are several families of Ivers in the parish of Gairloch, and in the Poolewe district of that county there are also still a few families in the parishes of Contin, and other parishes. The late Archibald M'Iver, Minister of Glenelg, was a descendant of the M'Ivers of Glenelg, and that the members of the Clan in the parish of Contin, were

reputed one of the handsomest races in the Highlands. A few offshoots of this division are found in Inverness-shire and elsewhere.

In Lewis, to which the greater number of the Ross-shire MacIvers appear to have migrated in the seventeenth century, the name and Clan are more numerous than in any other part of the Highlands. At the census of 1861, there were 1072 persons of the name in Lewis, chiefly in the Tolsta and Black districts of the parish of Stornoway.

The whole number of the Clan in Scotland, the Colonies, and the United States, may be reckoned as about 2508, of whom more than one-third have long borne the name of Campbell.

There are in Ulster a few descendants of the Clan, as of other Argyllshire races; but the Irish MacIvers generally have no connection with it, deriving their name from a different progenitor, although, it is believed, they sometimes assume its armorial bearings.

The old war tune of the MacIvers is that generally known by the first line of the words composed to it in comparatively modern times by the Piper of the Clan—*Thoir dhomh mo phiob a's theid mi dhachaidh*. An aged inhabitant of Kilmichael-Glassary, then considerably above 80, informed the writer in 1855 that even in his day no other tune was allowed to be played by wedding processions while entering the village. Any piper who did not pay this act of homage to the Clan was certain of being mobbed, and of having the wind let out of his bag-pipe in a summary manner, by the younger scions of the race. After acquitting himself of this duty, he might play any tune he pleased. It is said, however, that the pipers of the other races around, by whom the Clan-Iver was both feared and respected, willingly joined in recognizing this local prerogative of honour.

There is a curious Gaelic stanza relative to the Clan, well-known in the Highlands, the words of which are supposed to be uttered by the serpent or adder, the only poisonous reptile found in the country :

Mhionnaich mise do Chlann-Imheair,
'S mhionnaich Clann-Imheair dhombh,
Nach beannainsa do Chlann-Imheair,
'S nach beannadh Clann-Imheair dhombh.

I have sworn to Clan-Iver,
And Clan-Iver has sworn to me,
That I will not injure Clan-Iver,
Nor Clan-Iver injure me.

The compact recorded in these lines is understood literally by some simple Highlanders, who regard the true members of the Clan as invulnerable by serpents. A friend of another Clan has told the writer that often, when traversing thickets infested by adders in his school-boy days, these lines would come to his mind, and call forth an earnest wish that he had been a member of the favoured race. After much consideration of the subject, the true explanation of the rhyme appears to be that it commemorates an alliance between the Clan-Iver and some other race symbolized by the serpent; and there is every probability that the alliance referred to is that which is known to have anciently existed between the MacIvers in Perthshire and the Clan-Dhonnachie or Robertsons, one of whose cognizances was the serpent, which still appears as one of the supporters in the arms of their Chief, Robertson of Strowan. In some parts of the country the rhyme is found in the following less intelligible form :

Latha na Feill-Bride,
Their an nathair as an tom :
Cha bhi mise ri Nic-Imheair,
'S cha mho bhios Nic-Imheair rium.

The *Suaicheantas*, or badge, worn by the Clan-Iver in later times, is the Sweet Gale, called also Wild or Bog Myrtle (*Myrica Gale*), in Gaelic *Roid*, the badge of the Campbells. But there is some reason for believing that it was anciently the Fir-Club-Moss (*Lycopodium Selago*), in Gaelic *Garbhag-an-t-sleibhe*, which is sometimes said to be a Campbell badge, as having perhaps been the original badge of the considerable number of Campbells who are of the race Iver.*

The original tartan of the MacIvers cannot now be ascertained. They have long worn that of the Black-Watch, or 42nd Royal Highlanders, which is believed to be the original Campbell tartan, and sometimes latterly that known as the Argyll-Campbell tartan. But a favourite and very proper wear of the Clan, and of the

other Argyllshire races who have not preserved their peculiar patterns, seems now to be that which is said to have been adopted, by common consent, on the first embodiment of the Argyllshire Militia. This, which is conjectured to have been the tartan worn, as above-mentioned, by both the Argyll Militia and the MacIvers of Lochaber in the opposite armies at Culloden, is now that of the 91st Regiment, or Argyllshire Highlanders. These tartans, among which the MacIvers are so fortunate to have a choice, are all of a very chaste and elegant type.

The armorial bearings of the Clan are, as given by Nisbet, I. 30, Quarterly or and gules, a bend sable. The old Crest is supposed to have been the dexter hand in fess, holding a dagger in pale gules, introduced into the second quarter of the first grand-quarter of the shield of the family of Lergachonzie on their assuming the name and arms of Campbell. The arms, as given above, are—suitably differenced—the proper bearings of those branches of the Clan which retain the original patronymic. The Boar's Head crest, assumed by the Lergachonzie family, is, in various forms and tinctures, the crest of many of the branches of the Clan Campbell; but it was, as above stated, the peculiar distinction of the MacIvers of Lergachonzie, probably as Keepers of Inveraray Castle, to bear it exactly as borne by the Earls of Argyll—*couped or*.

The full armorial insignia of the Chiefs, since the adoption of the name of Campbell, are recorded as follows in the Lyon Register :

Quarterly : First grand quarter counter-quartered first and fourth, gyronny of eight or and sable; second, argent, a dexter hand couped in fess grasping a dagger in pale, gules; third, argent, a lymphad, or ancient galley, with sails furled and oars in action, sable; Second grand quarter, quarterly or and gules, a bend sable; Third grand quarter, as the second; Fourth, as the first. Supporters : Two leopards gardant proper, collared azure, with chains passing between their fore-legs and reflexed over their backs, or. Crest : A boar's head couped or. Motto over the crest : *Nunquam obliviscar*—a reply to the motto of the Earls of Argyll : *Ne obliviscaris*.

During the prevalence of French fashions in the 18th century, one of the Lairds of Asknish adopted a French version of the motto : *Je 'n oublie pas*; and had it so engraved on the armorial seal, transmitted by Lady Campbell of Asknish to the writer, after the death of Sir Trafford Campbell. The change, however, does not seem to have been duly authorised or recorded.

The armorial bearings of the family of Duchernan, formerly Quoycrook, or MacIvers Buey, Chiefs of the Caithness division of the Clan, as in the Lyon Register, are the same as the above, the bend sable of the Second and Third (MacIver) quarters being charged with three cross

* Another plant of this genus, the Alpine or Savine-leaved Club-Moss (*Lycopodium Alpinum*), is said to be the *Suaicheantas* of the Clan-Macrae.

crosslets fitched argent, with the additional motto below the shield: *Per crucem ad lucem*. As above stated, this family claims right to the pure arms and supporters.

William Iverach, Esq. of Wideford, Orkney, on an application in the court of the Lord Lyon for recognition as a cadet of the MacIvers Buey of Quoycrook, obtained a right to bear the following arms:

Quarterly: First and Fourth grand quarters as the second and third, Second and Third as the first and fourth, of Duchernan; the bend sable being engrailed, and the whole placed within a bordure argent charged with three cushions gules. Crest: A boar's head couped argent, langued gules. Motto over the crest: *Nunquam obliuiscar*. In this case the Campbell quartering was allowed, as that name was shewn to have been for some generations borne alternatively by the family, but the MacIver bearing was placed in the first quarter, that name, in the form Iverach, having been permanently adopted.

These are the only armorial bearings registered for any members of the Lergachonzie, Stronshiray, or Asknish Branch.

GLASSARY Branch: No arms are found in the existing Lyon Register, nor is it known how the paternal shield of MacIver was differenced as born by this Branch, or how they incorporated the Campbell arms on adopting the name. The Kirnan family were in the practice latterly of using a boar's head crest as borne by the Lergachonzie Branch.

COWAL Branch: The Ballochyle brooch, a very beautiful and interesting work of the sixteenth century—described and figured in the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Vol. I., P. ii., 170—the only old authority known for the arms of this Branch—was unfortunately left by the maker in a provokingly unfinished state as regards the armorial decorations. It exhibits a quartered shield, first and fourth gyronny of eight or and sable, for Campbell; but the second and third quarters, which should have displayed the MacIver coat, suitably differenced, have been left blank—the engraver probably not knowing the bearings—and were never filled up. The shield appears twice, in two opposite compartments of the eight forming the ornamental border, the compartment on the one side in each case bearing the initials M.C., and that on the other a leopard's face, perhaps a crest or cognizance, naturally borrowed from the leopards guardant, the supporters of the arms of MacIver of Lergachonzie, the Chief of the Clan. Colonel William Rose Campbell of Ballochyle, obtained a right to bear quarterly, first and fourth, gyronny of eight or and sable; second and third quarterly or and gules (the MacIver field), a leopard's face proper. Crest: a boar's head couped proper. Motto: *I will not forget*.

There is no registration of arms for any special families of the MacIvers in Scotland who have retained their patronymic. Those of Ross and Lewis are supposed to have occasionally, and not inappropriately, borne in some way or other, as a difference, the *cabarfrith*, or stag's head cabossed, of their great feudal leaders the House of Seaforth, probably charged on the bend sable, and they now generally, following the example of their Chiefs in Argyll, use the boar's head crest and the motto latterly borne by them, instead of the old MacIver crest, the hand and dagger.

It ought to be added, in conclusion, that the spelling MacIvor, or M'Ivor, although sometimes seen since the publication of Waverley, was never adopted by any family of position in the Clan in Scotland; and that the first syllable of the name on which the patronymic is founded, is pronounced like the first syllable of *eren*, not of *ivory*.

THE CHIEF OF THE MACKENZIES.

Who is the next chief of the clan? is a question that is frequently discussed among clansmen and others. One of our readers belonging to this clan remarks that as there is considerable doubt as to who is really entitled to the title of chief, he would suggest that the problem might be easily solved by Seaforth being acknowledged as the head of the Clan Coinneach. In his veins flows the blood of the old line of chiefs of the clan, the ancient Earls of Seaforth, he possesses the residence and lands of the family, he is a soldier of distinction, and takes the keenest interest in all matters relating to the clan. His wife has shown her sympathy for the poorer classes in the Highlands by opening stores in various parts of the Western Isles for the purchase of home-woven tweeds, and a central agency in London for the sale of these goods. It was only the other day that Colonel and Mrs. Mackenzie presented to Ross-shire a Sanitorium which cost £100,000. Our correspondent considers that there is no need to worry over old genealogical charts. They have in Seaforth an ideal chief who will do credit to the clan, and he suggests that the Mackenzies should elect him to that honourable position at once, as the power to appoint or depose a chief was a privilege which the clan jealously guarded, and at times exercised.

PROPOSED MEMORIAL TO THE LATE REV. ALLAN MACDONALD OF ERISKAY, SOUTH UIST, DEAN OF THE ISLES.—It is with the greatest pleasure that we recommend this most deserving object to the generosity of our readers. The late Father Allan MacDonald, although he passed many years of his life in a small island in the Western Hebrides, made a reputation for himself as a Celtic scholar which earned for him a respect in far distant lands, while the service which he rendered his own people by collecting and publishing so much of their old world folk-lore and *sguelachd*, is deserving of handsome recognition. It is proposed to adopt some suitable means of preserving his memory, and perhaps no better means of doing so could be suggested than the collecting and publishing of his literary remains, which seem to be of an extensive and valuable character. A fund for this purpose has been already opened, and we trust that there will be a generous response from our readers. Mr. Arch. A. Chisholm, Procurator Fiscal, Lochmaddy, is hon. treasurer, and will gladly acknowledge subscriptions.