

# Clan MacLaren Society of North America

## Patterson



## About Clan MacLaren

An ancient clan with origins that predate the use of surnames, Clan MacLaren derives its name from Labhran (Laurin or Lawrence) of Ardveche, the hereditary Abbot of Achtus in Balquhiddy in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. Many variations have been accumulated through translations from Gaelic as well as transcribed records. Other surnames adopted by Clan families trace to others though not in all cases.

The collection of surnames of a clan are known as *septs*. The word, which means branches or divisions, was originally used to designate a small group affiliated with a

clan and acknowledging the authority of the chief. The word is used much more loosely today.

The current Chief of Clan MacLaren is Donald MacLaren of MacLaren. Donald, who is a retired member of the British Foreign Service, succeeded his father as Chief in 1966. Donald and his wife Maida have five children. The family property includes Creag an Tuirc, the hill overlooking the village of Balquhiddy, and the ancient rallying point of the Clan.

## Patterson Surnames

There is no single Patterson family line; the surname is one of the most frequently occurring in Scotland. The surname is derived many ways, including a number of Patrick MacLarens. Many spelling variations resulted from translation into English including:

MacFadden	MacFeat
MacFade	MacPhater
MacFait	MacPhatter
MacFate	Paterson
MacFater	Patrick
MacFatter	Patterson
MacFeat	Peatrie
MacFeat	Peatry
MacPetrie	Petrie
MacPetry	Peatry
MacPhait	Petry
MacFeat	

Patterson families from Balquhiddy and Strathearn have allied with, and been a part of, Clan Labhran since ancient times.

There were Pattersons from other parts of Scotland who were not MacLarens. The surname has been linked to three other clans (Campbell, Lamont and MacAuley) by researchers. Clan Paterson is officially recognized by Lord Lyon King of Arms, though this is a lowland clan lacking ancient origins and is currently armigerous (i.e., does not have a chief).

The Clan MacLaren Society of North America welcomes all Pattersons, by any surname, with Scottish heritage without regard to ancestral home region.

## Some History

The earliest historical reference is to Duncan Paterson who was implicated in the killing of the Vicar of Balquhiddy in 1532. He may be the son of Patrick M'Ewyn V'Laurane mentioned in the Bond of Manrent of 1559. But both Duncan and Patrick were common given names for MacLarens, so it is not possible to make a positive identification.

Pattersons were among the Covenanters resisting the imposition of Episcopacy by the British in the latter 1600s.

The later Jacobite Risings did not include Patterson participation as a separate family group. At Culloden, some fought among the Frasers with others in Cromartie's

Regiment, Grante's Artillery Unit, and Lord Ogilvy's Regiment. On the British side, two Patterson men are listed in the Royal Artillery Unit which devastated Jacobite lines.

## Migration

During the plantation era of the 17th Century, Pattersons settled in the Coleraine District of Ireland's County Derry. Some of their descendants emigrated to North America as plantation leases began to expire. Many of these Scots-Irish immigrants settled in America's Mid-Atlantic colonies, including New Jersey and Pennsylvania, or in Canada's Nova Scotia. Earlier immigrants, traveling directly from Scotland, often settled in southern colonial locations including Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. The American War of Independence led to further migration with those loyal to the Crown trekking north into Canada.

## CMSNA Genealogy Project

The Clan MacLaren Society of North America (CMSNA) maintains a vigorous program to research the genealogy of Clan families. Society members are encouraged to contribute their own research to our growing database to preserve their family histories or, if they are new to genealogy, use our members-only genealogy website as a starting point for their work.

The online database holds records on tens of thousands of individuals spanning

centuries from the 15th through the 21st. The numbers will increase as family lines are connected and documented, more information becomes publicly available and ongoing research efforts produce results.

To augment our efforts in genealogy, CMSNA participates in a Y-DNA project at FamilyTree DNA. The project is open to all males bearing a Clan surname regardless of spelling or CMSNA membership. The goal of the project is to gain a better understanding of the deep ancestry forming the Clan's origins and history.

The CMSNA Genealogist is Arthur D. Lowe.

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## About CMSNA

The Clan MacLaren Society of North America was chartered in Georgia in 1981. The CMSNA set broad goals in support of Clan MacLaren and the Scottish community in general.

CMSNA has a multifaceted purpose:

- 1) to support, promote, and publicize the Clan MacLaren in the US and Canada;
- 2) to promote celebration of the family heritage of MacLarens;
- 3) to inform members and others about the history, traditions, and accomplishments of Clan MacLaren;

- 4) to provide a vehicle for interaction and a common bond among North American MacLarens;
- 5) to promote education.

Complete information about the CMSNA can be found at: [www.clanmaclarena.org](http://www.clanmaclarena.org)

## Eligibility for Membership

One automatically becomes a member of Clan MacLaren by birth, marriage, or adoption. Joining the CMSNA enables full participation in Clan activities and celebrations. Membership information can be found on our website at: <https://www.clanmaclarena.org/join.htm>

To join, download an application from this page and follow the instructions, or visit a CMSNA tent at one of the many Highland Games in the US and Canada. You can also contact Membership Secretary Dave Elkin.

Email: [membership@clanmaclarena.org](mailto:membership@clanmaclarena.org)

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