

Clan MacLaren Society Of North America

Clan MacLaren Surnames



Origin of Clan MacLaren

The MacLaren name was derived from Labhran (Laurin) of Ardveche, the hereditary Abbot of Achtus in Balquhiddy in the 13th Century. Major family groups include MacLaren, MacLaurin, Law, Lowe, and Lowery, including all variant spellings.

Some Surnames of Clan MacLaren

Larnach	MacLaurie	McLauren
Laughton	MacLaurin	McLaurie
Laurence	MacLeran	McLaurin
Laurie	MacPater	McLaury

Law(s)	MacPatrick	McLawran
Lawrence	MacRory	McLawrence
Lawrie	MacRuari	McLawrine
Lawson	McClaran	McLearen
Lawton	McClaranan	McLearn
Leary	McClaren	McLeran
Lorne	McClarence	McLerran
Loughry	McClareon	McLurin
Low(e)	McClarín	McPatrick
Lowery	McClaurin	McPhater
Lowry	McClearin	McRory
Lowrey	McClearn	Paterson
Lowson	McClery	Patrick
MacAcllion	McCroy	Patterson
MacFate	McGory	Peterson
MacGory	McIleherran	Petrie
MacLaran	McIlherin	Rorie
MacLaren	McLairén(s)	Rorison
MacLarin	McLaran	Wright
MacLauren	McLaren	

There are various alternate spellings. See an extensive listing at:

<https://www.clanmaclarena.org/names.htm>

MacLaren and MacLaurin

The various spellings of the name MacLaren derive their patronymic from Abbot Labhran, which was Anglicized to Lawrence or Laurence. The name Lawrence was first recorded in Roman history, and was spread throughout the Roman Empire, eventually arriving in the British Isles. In approximately 500 AD, Loarn or Laurin, a son of Erc, is reported to have acquired the lands of his father in what is currently known as Argyll. This is the first recorded instance of a name in this region of Scotland connected with the name Lawrence.

The use of Mac or Mc at the beginning of a name is used in Gaelic to denote "son of" or simply "of". Less common forms are M', V', Na' and B'. Historically, these prefixes were used often or at times completely dropped. It is only in relatively recent

times that the widespread use of written records has caused an emphasis on standardized name spellings.

Law, Lawson, and Lawrence

From the discussion above, it can be seen how the surnames Law, Lawson, and particularly Lawrence, are connected to the surname MacLaren. The name Law is a simple patronymic of Lawrence or Laurin. The name Lawson is a more complex patronymic, and it carries the same relationship to the surname MacLaren to depict "son of". The suffix "son" may be derived from Scandinavian, Pict, or Viking origin. The term "son" is used throughout Scotland, and is sometimes referred to as a means for Anglicizing a Scottish name.

Anglicized clan names were frequently used as Highland Scots migrated from their traditional clan lands. Early Perthshire records show that Law, Lawson, and Lawrence were in common use in the region. In the period 1500-1700, the names were found as far north as Inverness, and in the counties of Banff, Aberdeen, Kincardine, Angus, Fife, Sterling, and Kinross. In addition, the names were found in Glasgow and Edinburgh, and as far south as Ayr, Dumfries, and Berwick.

Lowery, Laurie, and Lowe

The prime origins of the names Lowry, Laurie, Lawry, or any of the other spellings, appear to stem from the basic trend that most of the Indo-European languages share: ellipsis and foreshortening. Lowry is simply a truncation of the name (Mac)Laren by dropping the final "n". This tendency toward ellipsis, or the dropping of the final sound of a word, is constant in the evolution of any language.

The Lowrys are heavily identified with the Scotch-Irish, and there is ample ground for speculation that several political factors at work in the 1600's hastened the foreshortening of the name from MacLaren. By then, the fortunes of Clan MacLaren had been in decline for many years in the

Balquhiddar homeland. When the Irish lands of Ulster was opened to Scottish and English Protestants in 1609 for the development of plantations, settlers were not permitted from Scotland's Western regions or the Isles. A desire to obscure real or imagined ties with ineligible applicants may well have led to the intentional dropping of the "Mac" prefix and the shortening of the name. In any event, by 1685 the Lowrys were present in what is now Northern Ireland in large numbers.

Septs of Clan MacLaren

A sept is a branch or division. In Scotland the term was originally used to identify a group affiliated with a particular clan and acknowledging the authority of the clan's chief. The major septs of Clan MacLaren are Patterson, MacRory, and Wright.

Patterson

The largest sept of Clan MacLaren is Patterson, which includes McFater, McFeat, and McPatrick. The earliest reference to a Patterson is to Duncan Patterson, who was implicated with other MacLarens in the murder of the Vicar of Balquhiddar in 1532. This individual may be Duncan, son of Patrick M'Ewyn V'Laurane who was mentioned in the Bond of Manrent in 1559, but since both Duncan and Patrick were favorite MacLaren names, it is not possible to make a positive identification. Pattersons are also identified to a lesser degree with other clans, primarily Lamont, Campbell, and McAulay, but the Pattersons from Balquhiddar and Strathearn belong to the MacLarens. Because the Pattersons arose all over Scotland, it is practically impossible to trace the origins of each individual. Owing to this, the Clan MacLaren welcomes all Pattersons.

MacRory

The second largest sept of Clan MacLaren is MacRory. Roderick, or Ruari, was an unusual name among the MacLarens, and was perhaps derived from a marriage with the famous Clan Ruari, the

descendants of Ruari, second son of Sommerlied, the 12th Century progenitor of Clan Donald.

The MacRuari emblem was the "Black Galley of the Isles" which was added by the MacLaren chiefs to the chevrons of Strathearn on their own shield. MacRory was obviously an important name in Clan MacLaren, and it seems likely that when Clan Ruari disintegrated as a result of devastating clan wars, at least some of the survivors transferred their allegiance to the Clan MacLaren.

Several MacRorys are listed in the Bond of 1573. The 1747 Balquhiddar Baptism Registry lists the baptism of the child of a "MacLaren, alias MacRorie"- a perfect example of a double surname.

Wright and McIntyre

The Rental for Crown Lands of 1509 lists several McIntyres who were tenants at the western end of the Glen at Balquhiddar. McIntyre is a trade name derived from the Gaelic Mac an t Soir, or carpenter. Wright is the Anglicized version of the name. There is of course a Clan McIntyre, and it is possible that several members of this clan settled at Balquhiddar, but it is more likely that these McIntyres were MacLarens distinguished by their profession or trade. McIntyres or Wrights whose ancestry is traced to Balquhiddar are regarded as MacLarens.

Chief of Clan MacLaren

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, and the ancient rallying point of the Clan.

CMSNA Genealogy Project

The Clan MacLaren Society of North America (CMSNA) maintains an active genealogy program aimed at building the most complete data-set of

information on Clan and Sept families. See the website: <https://maclarengenealogy.org/>. Information is also on repository in the Ellen Payne Odom Library in Moultrie, GA.

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 gaining a better understanding of the deep ancestry forming the Clan's origins and history.

The CMSNA Genealogy Project gives MacLarens a starting point in their own individual research, as well as a place to preserve the records of their own family histories. The records are such that individual records are combined with others toward the goal of producing an overall record of the MacLaren Family.

The CMSNA Genealogist is Arthur D. Lowe.
Email: genealogist@maclarengenealogy.org

Eligibility for Membership

One automatically becomes a member of Clan MacLaren by birth, marriage, or adoption. Joining the CMSNA will enable you to fully participate in Clan activities and celebrations. To become a member, simply visit a CMSNA tent at one of the many Highland Games in the US and Canada, or contact the Membership Secretary Dave Elkin.
Email: membership@clanmaclarena.org

Complete information about the Clan MacLaren Society of NA can be found at:
www.clanmaclarena.org

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