

Clan MacLaren – Some Historic Benchmarks

- 500s (6th Century) - 1st Lords of Lorn; Lorn (son of Erc) and Scots arrive in Argyll, from Ireland.
- 600s (7th Century) - MacLarens listed among the medieval highland chiefs of Scotland.
- 800s (9th Century) - MacLarens are a cadet branch of family of Earls of Strathearn, one of the “7 Mormaers (Earls) of Scotland”, and kinsmen of Kenneth MacAlpin, first High King of a united Scotland (uniting Pictish lineage through mother’s line and Scottish lineage through father’s line); because of this connection with one of the “7 Earls”, MacLarens entitled to use royal colors of red and gold in their tartan.
- 1100s (12th Century) - MacLarens have lands in Balquhiddy, Strathearn.
- 1200s (13th Century) - Lawrence of Achtoch, MacLaren namesake ancestor
- MacLarens ‘out’ for William Wallace, Robert Bruce in Scottish War of Independence.
- 1300s (14th Century) - King took over the Earldom of Strathearn, MacLarens became tenants on their own land.
- MacLarens followed the Stewart Lords of Lorn.
- 1400s (15th Century) - Battle of Sauchieburn; MacLarens fought with Stewart monarch.
- MacLaren maternal ancestor of the Stewarts of Appin.
- 1500s (16th Century) - MacLarens massacred and lands taken by MacGregors; MacLarens became a “landless” clan.
- Heraldic Mermaid associated with the Lords of Balquhiddy, who had MacLaren kinship (a Pictish connection through mother’s line).
- Battle of Flodden, Battle of Pinkie—MacLarens fought with Stewart monarch.
- 1600s (17th Century) - MacLaren soldiers of fortune, great warriors for kings of France, Sweden, Italy.
- Chief of MacLaren did not register his arms with Lord Lyon.
- 1700s (18th Century) - MacLarens were Jacobites, supported Stewarts in the Risings of ‘15, ‘45; fought for Prince Charlie at Culloden.
- MacLarens figure prominently in Robert Louis Stevenson’s “Kidnapped” and in Sir Walter Scott’s “Redgauntlet”.
- 1900s (20th Century) - Robert Baden-Powell founded the Boy Scouts, assisted by Kenneth MacLaren
- Scouting founder Baden-Powell received Gilwell Park estate, a gift from William Dubois MacLaren, as a training center for scout leaders; MacLaren tartan became emblem of Wood Badge scout leaders trained there.
- During World War II, Donald MacLaren of MacLaren (grandfather of the current Chief) served with the Queen’s Own Cameron Highlanders and was head of economic counterintelligence attached to US Army General Dwight Eisenhower’s staff.
- 1957 - Donald MacLaren of MacLaren matriculated arms with The Court of the Lord Lyon, thereby gaining the government of Scotland’s recognition of Clan MacLaren; purchased part of traditional Clan lands, including “Creag an Tuirc” (“the Boar’s Rock”).
- Former Chief Donald MacLaren (father of the current Chief) was a member of British Foreign Service, served as British Ambassador to Republic of Georgia.
- 1981 - Clan MacLaren Society of North America established.
- 2000s (21st Century) - 2026 - Florian MacLaren of MacLaren is established as the current Chief of Clan MacLaren.