

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 Balquhidder, Strathearn
- 1200s (13th Century) --Lawrence of Achtow, 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 Balquhidder, 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--Jacobites, supported Stewarts in the Risings of ‘15, ‘45; fought for Prince Charlie at Culloden
--MacLarens figure prominently in Robert Louis Stevenson’s Kidnapped, 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
--1957 Chief Donald’s father recognized by Lord Lyon as Clan Chief; purchased part of traditional Clan lands, including Creag an Tuirc (‘the Boar’s Rock’)
--Current Chief Donald—member of British Foreign Service, served as British Ambassador to Republic of Georgia
--Clan MacLaren Society of North America established 1981