

THE CLANS AND FAMILIES OF SCOTLAND

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George Way of Plean and Romilly Squire of Rubislaw

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ancestral lands and, raising the standard of the 'old Pretender', James VIII, he called out his own clansmen and all loyal supporters of the house of Stuart. He had soon gathered an army of over ten thousand clansmen. The earl led his Jacobites to Dunblane where he met an indifferent royal force under the Duke of Argyll. The Battle of Sheriffmuir, which was fought on 13 November 1715, was inconclusive and, although Mar's forces were probably victorious, they left the field without inflicting any severe damage upon Argyll, who then claimed a victory for himself. The rising was a failure and Mar fled to France, whereupon his title and lands were forfeited. The estates were purchased by another branch of the family in 1724. The earl received the Jacobite title of Mar, but this was abandoned in 1824 when the Erksines were restored to the earldom of Mar and the attainder on the family was lifted. The earldom of Kellie, which had been bestowed in 1619 on a younger son of the chiefly line, became united with the earldom of Mar in 1835. The present chief succeeded as fourteenth Earl of Mar and sixteenth of Kellie in 1993. A spokesman for the Liberal Democrat Party on environmental issues in 2000 he was created a life peer as Lord Erskine of Alloa Tower thus enabling him to remain and vote in the upper House of Parliament despite the rights of hereditary peers having been restricted.

EWING



ARMS

(of Craigtoun) 3

Argent, a chevron embattled Azure ensigned with a banner Gules charged with a canton of the Second, thereon a saltire of the First, all between two mullets in chief and the sun in his splendour in base of the Third

CREST

A demi lion rampant in his dexter paw a mullet Gules

MOTTO

Audaciter (Boldly)

The clan and surname of Ewing originate on the shores of Loch Lomond, where the name remains common to this day. During the late fifteenth century members of Clan Ewan of Otter appear to have settled there after being forced from their ancestral lands around Kilfinan on the Cowal peninsula, when Findlay Ewing was granted the estate of Ladytoun by the Earls of Lennox in the 1560s. As well as the favour of the Earls, these early Ewings owed their advancement to the Scottish Reformation, as the lands of Ladytoun had previously endowed a nunnery. It has also been argued that the status of the chiefly family is evidence of their descent from the ancient Ewans of Otter. Ewing arms are first recorded in the Workman Armorial of 1566.

Shortly after the establishment of the Ewings in Lennox, the deposed Mary, Queen of Scots escaped from her prison on Loch Leven and raised an army in an attempt to regain the throne. Her forces met with those commanded by her half-brother, the Earl of Moray, at Langside, south of Glasgow. It appears that one of the Queen's banners at Langside was carried by a William Ewing. Family historian, Thor Ewing, has argued that William

Ewing was likely to be of the same family who had recently been granted arms and lands. In support of this he noted that the ancient Ewing arms display the red ensign of Scotland, and that flags are uncommon as heraldic devices, and thus likely to indicate special favour.

Subsequently, little is known of the chiefly family. It seems that in common with many other lowlgentry, members settled in Ulster as part of the Jacobean Plantation. As related by early twentieth century family historian, E.W.R Ewing, one Findlay Ewing, said to have been an artillery officer, fought with the Williamite forces at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690 and was presented with a sword by William of Orange in recognition of 'conspicuous bravery'. Many later Ewings in North America traced descent from these settlers, notably Thomas Ewing, First Secretary of the Interior, who was born in 1789. Thor Ewing has highlighted that the name Findlay is uncommon and represents some evidence of association with the Ewings of Ladytoun.

Born in 1814, Bishop Alexander Ewing traced his heritage to the traditional Ewing lands, and was said to have observed Ewing arms 'almost identical' to those recorded in 1566 being depicted on a tombstone in the churchyard of Bonhill, Dumbartonshire. Bishop Ewing was consecrated Episcopal Bishop of Argyll and the Isles in 1857, and struggled to maintain that denomination in the West of Scotland against the opposition of Presbyterianism and the consequences of rural depopulation. This, together with poor health and failure to learn Gaelic led his biographer to conclude that Ewing's career as a bishop was not successful and that 'he was remembered for his scholarship and good nature, rather than any accomplishment'. He died in 1873.

In the nineteenth century, a Ewing family became established as leading industrialists in the Vale of Leven, south of Loch Lomond. These were the Ewings of Balloch, and their ancestry can be traced with certainty to Robert Ewing, who was born at Balloch in 1724. His grandsons, John and Archibald Orr Ewing established a textile manufacturing empire which dominated the area in the nineteenth century. In 1886 Archibald Orr Ewing gained a Baronetcy, of Ballinkinran in Stirlingshire, the name derived from his substantial country house. A Tory, Sir Archibald represented Stirlingshire as a Member of Parliament for twenty four years. He was also a promoter and substantial benefactor of Glasgow University's reconstruction in its present location in 1862. The Orr Ewing baronetcy is still extant today, although the family sold their seat at Ballinkinran and departed the area in the early twentieth century, and today it is operated as a special needs school by the Church of Scotland. More recently, the most well-known bearer of the surname has been Winifred or Winnie Ewing, who was born in 1929. A nationalist politician, in 1967 Ewing rose to prominence by unexpectedly winning a by-election in Hamilton and in doing so, achieving a breakthrough for the Scottish National Party. She later served as a Member of the European Parliament, earning the nickname 'Madame Ecosse' for her promotion of Scottish interests. Her son, Fergus, has also been a leading nationalist politician.

In the early twenty first century efforts began to re-establish Clan Ewing, and to unravel its complex history. In 2008 the Ewing Family Association was established in North America, building on an earlier network. At the same time, extensive research was undertaken which confirmed the heritage of the Ewings as a separate historical kin-group. A key issue was the relationship between the Ewings and the Clan MacEwen, and in 2014 a joint Family Convention, or Derbhfine, met under the supervision of the Lyon Court and chose separate Commanders, with Thor Ewing appointed Commander of Clan Ewing.

Available evidence suggests that any Chiefly Crest is likely to be the same as Ewing of Craigtoun and Keppoch.

FAIRLIE



ARMS

(LR 4/25) 1

Or, a lion rampant and in chief three stars Gules

CREST

A lion's head couped Or

MOTTO

Paratus sum (I am prepared)

This family first appears in Ayrshire as proprietors of the lands of Fairley (the village of Fairley near Largs still exists today). Nisbet, in his commentary on the Ragman Roll of those who submitted to Edward I of England in 1296, stated that Robert de Ross was heritor to the lands of Fairly in Cunningham whence the family took its name. The arms of Ross and Fairly both contain a lion rampant but this is such a common feature of Scots heraldry that little can be deduced from it. The name also arose around Edinburgh, and William Fairlie received lands at Inverleith from Robert I.

The Fairlies of Braid claimed descent from a natural son of Robert II, and Nisbet cited as evidence of this theory the fact that they bore the red lion rampant on a gold shield of the royal house. There is, however, no other evidence to substantiate this claim. The family of Braid claimed the chiefship of the name when the original Ayrshire line failed. They acquired, by purchase, the lands of Little Dreghorn in Ayrshire which they renamed Fairlie. This line also failed to produce a male heir, and Sir William Cunningham of Robertland, Baronet, who had married the sister of the last Laird of Fairlie, assumed the additional name of Fairlie in 1781. In the nineteenth century the engineer Robert Francis Fairlie, who was born in Glasgow in 1831, devised and patented a revolutionary type of steam locomotive, which was articulated and thus the solution to the capacity problems of the Ffestiniog Railway in Wales. The most novel feature of the Fairlie locomotive was its double ended construction, giving the appearance of two conventional steam locomotives back to back. They are still built and operated in North Wales today.

