

DISINGENUOUS INFORMATION ABOUT CLAN MACTAVISH

(THE CLAN TAVISH IS AN ANCIENT HIGHLAND CLAN)

BY PATRICK L. THOMPSON, CLAN MACTAVISH SEANNACHIE

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The more proper title of the clan is CLAN TAVISH (*Scottish Gaelic: Clann Tamhais*), but it is commonly known as CLAN MACTAVISH (*Scottish Gaelic: Clann MacTamhais*). The amount of disingenuous information found on the internet about Clan MacTavish is AMAZING! This document is meant to provide a clearer and truthful understanding of Clan MacTavish and its stature as recorded historically in Scotland. Certain statements/allegations made about Clan MacTavish will be addressed individually.

Disingenuous statement 1: *Thom(p)son is not MacTavish.*

That statement is extremely misleading. *The Clans, Septs, and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands* (CSRSH), 8th Edition, 1984, pp. 301, 554, Frank Adam, revised by Lord Lyon Sir Thomas Innes of Learney, states:

THE SEPTS OF THE HIGHLAND CLANS301

(8) *MacTavish, Thompson, etc.*—The MacTavishes, Tawessons, Thompsons, *etc.*, are said to derive their origin from *Taus Coir*, an illegitimate son of one of the Lords of Lochow, who lived in the days of King Alexander II. Henry White (“Fionn”) said :
Many of the Argyllshire MacTavishes now make Thomsons of them selves, while others are known as Tawesons. The surnames, MacLehose and MacLaws, are regarded as corrupted forms of *Mac-Gille-Thomais*—son of the gille or servant of Thomas. There was a strong colony of MacTavishes in Strathglass at an early period.
But these repudiate dependency on Clan Campbell, and *MacTavish* of Dunardrie is chief of that clan, whilst Thomson of that Ilk on the Border is regarded as a remotely connected or indeterminate connection of the MacTavishes.

CLANS, SEPTS, AND REGIMENTS OF THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

List of Clan Septs and Dependents
(Arranged under the Clans with which they are Connected)

Clan Buchanan	Clan Buchanan —contd.	Clan Campbell —contd.	Clan Campbell of Loudoun
Colman.	Masterson.	Denoon.	Hastings.
Donleavy.	Murchie.	Denune.	Loudoun.
Donlevy.	Murchison.	Harres.	
Dove.	Risk.	Harris.	Clan Chattan
Dow.	Ruskin.	Haws.	See names under
Dowe.	Spittal.	Hawson.	Mackintosh and
Gibb.	Spittel.	MacConnechy.	Macpherson.
Gibson.	Watson.	MacConochie.	Clan Colquhoun
Gilbertson.	Watt.	MacGibbon.	Cowan.
Harper.	Yuill.	Macglasrich.	Kilpatrick.
Harperson.	Yuille.	MacIsaac.	Kirkpatrick.
Lennie.	Yule.	MacIver.	Macachounich.
Lenny.		MacIvor.	MacCowan.
Macaldonich.	Clan Cameron	MacKellar.	Clan Cumming
Macandeor.	Chalmers.	MacKessock.	Buchan. ²
MacAslan.	Clark.	MacKissock.	Comine.
MacAuselan.	Kennedy.	MacLaws.	Comyn.
MacAusland.	MacChlerich.	MacLehose.	MacNiven.
MacAuslane.	MacChlery.	MacNichol.	Niven.
MacCalman.	MacGillonie.	MacOran.	Russell.
MacCalmont.	Macildowie.	MacOwen.	Clan Davidson
MacCammond.	MacKail.	MacPhedran.	Davie.
MacChruter.	Maclerie.	MacPhun.	Davis.
MacColman.	MacMartin.	MacTause.	Dawson.
MacCormack.	MacOnie.	MacTavish. ¹	Dow.
Macdonleavy.	MacOurlic.	MacThomas.	Kay.
MacGibbon.	MacPhail.	MacUre.	Macdade.
MacGilbert.	MacSorley.	Tawesson.	Macdaid.
Macgreusich.	MacUlrice.	Thomason.	MacDavid.
Macinally.	Macvail.	Thomson. ¹	
Macindeor.	MacWalrick.	Thomson. ¹	Clan
Macindoe.	Martin.	Thomson. ¹	Drummond
Mackinlay.	Paul.	Ure.	Grewar.
Mackinley.	Sorley.	Clan Campbell	Gruer.
MacMaster.	Taylor.	of Breadalbane	Maccrouther.
MacMaurice.		MacDiarmid.	Macgrewar.
MacMurchie.	Clan Campbell	MacDermid.	Macgrowther.
MacMurchy.	Bannatyne.	Clan Campbell	Macgruder.
Macnuyer.	Burns.	of Cawdor	Macgruther.
MacWattie.	Burnes.	Caddell.	MacRobbie.
MacWhirter.	Burnett.	Calder.	
	Connochie.		

¹ MacTavish is reckoned a clan itself, and Thomson a sept thereof.

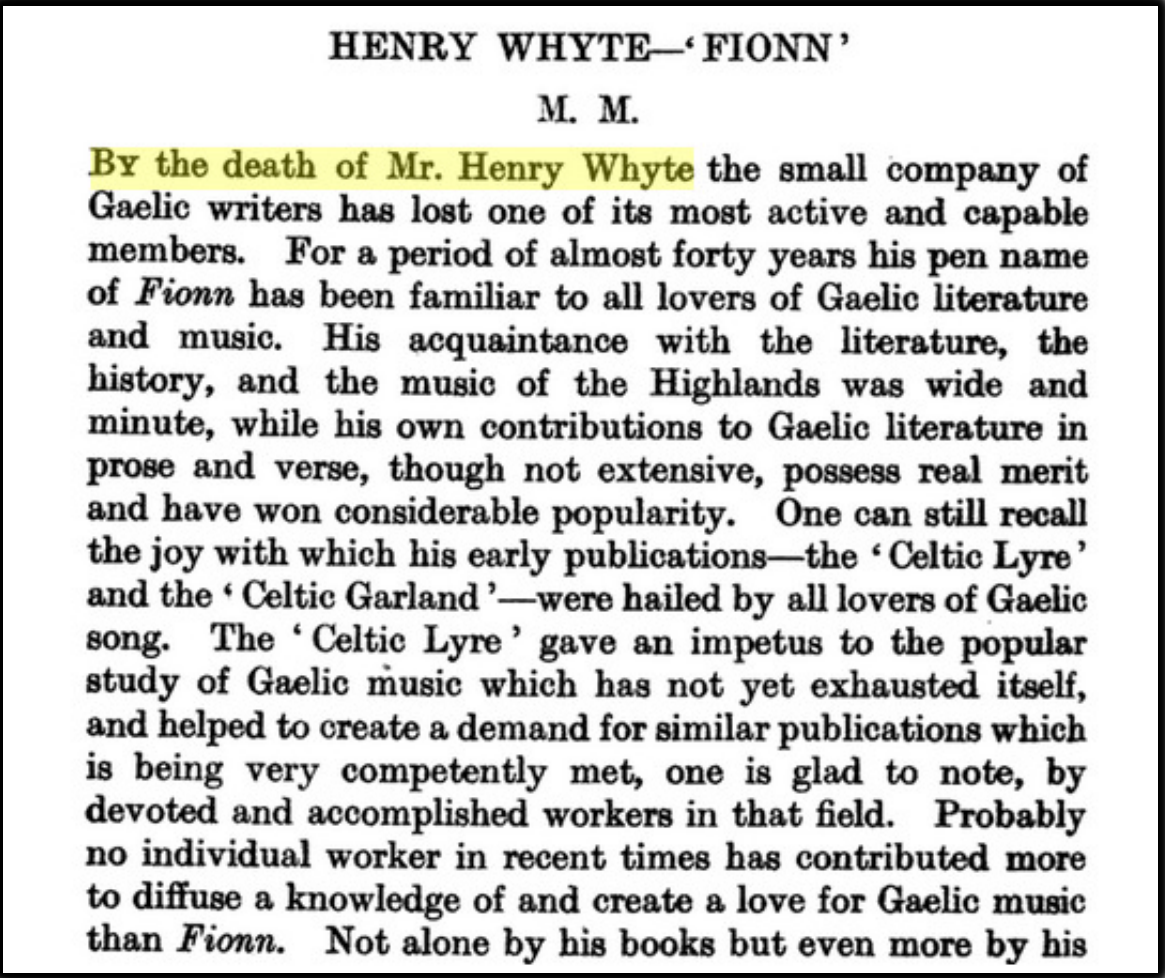
² Buchan is held a distinct and pre-Cumming Tribe.

554

Date of the 8th Edition of CSRS is 1984, and pages 331 & 554 therein reflects that MacTavish is a clan, and that Thompson and Thomson are MacTavish septs. It does not say that ALL Thom(p)sons are of Clan MacTavish; as that would be a totally false assumption. Providing a reference footnote was the most expedient method to correct a long-held belief that MacTavish was a sept of Campbell, without reformatting the pages in this section. This publication is 11 years before the matriculation of Dugald MacTavish as chief of Clan MacTavish (the matriculation process took a full 5 years to complete).

Who was Henry White (Fionn)? Is his work pertinent? His name was actually *Henry Whyte*, and he wrote under the pen name of '*Fionn*'. He was a native Highlander, a Gaelic/English speaker, a highly respected politician, journalist, and author. The *Celtic Review* reflected on his death in Volume 9 of 1913, pages 332-336. Here is a snippet from that article. To read more see URL:

<https://books.google.com/books?id=j2QGAQAIAAJ&pg=PA332&dq=%22celtic+review%22+++%22by+the+death+of+Mr.+Henry+whyte%22&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj0ko7EolrZAhVPmlkKHWIoCngQ6AEIJzAA#v=onepage&q=%22celtic%20review%22%20%20%20%22by%20the%20death%20of%20Mr.%20Henry%20whyte%22&f=false>



It is most difficult to determine when large numbers of people in the Lowlands and Borders (none Gaelic speakers) began using standardized surnames. Surnames were used by the upper echelon of Scottish Society probably beginning in the 13th century (See URL: <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/research-guides/surnames>), but the common folk did not have standardized surnames until the 15th century or possibly later. (“Many Scottish surnames originated in patronymics, whereby a son’s surname derived from the father’s forename, for example John Donaldson’s son might be Peter Johnson, whose son might be Magnus Peterson, and so on. Patronymics present something of a challenge for the family historian in that the surname changed with each successive generation.

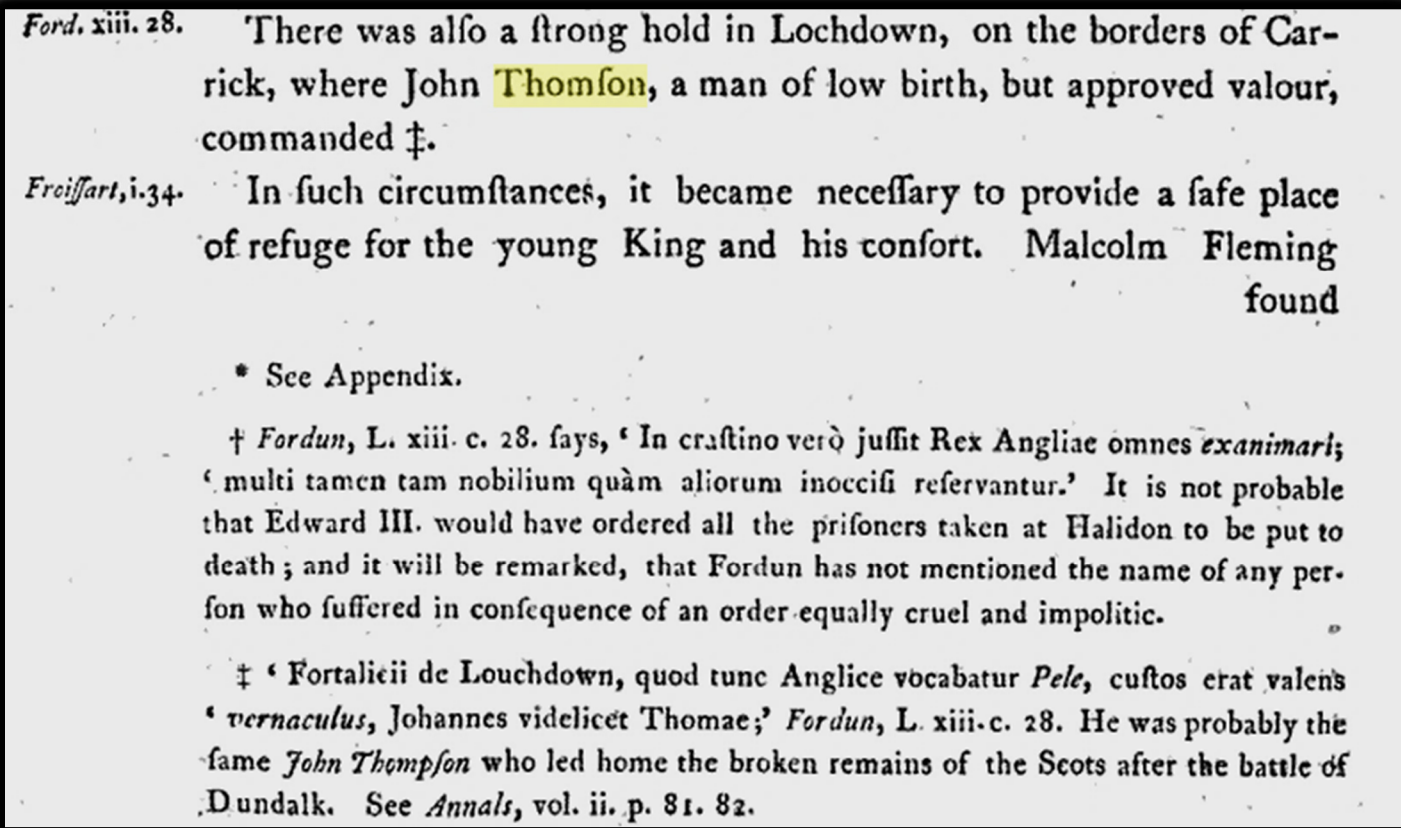
This practice died out in Lowland Scotland after the 15th century, as patronymic surnames became permanent family names. It persisted, however, in the Highlands and Islands well into the 18th century (see Mac surnames) and in the Northern Isles until the 19th century.” See URL: <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/research-guides/surnames> Copyright, National Records of Scotland). See also ‘Mac surnames’ at this same website.

How did a Highlander Identify himself/herself before surnames were adopted? He/she did not use their chief’s name until perhaps the 15th century but marked themselves by using the

locality of where they lived. The MacTavish Chiefs were styled “of Dunardry” (Tonardarie or Dunardarie anciently), but the common folk of the clan used “in” vice “of” because they were not the land owner. Anyone who lived on any of the various MacTavish (or other laird’s) lands would use their locality. It was generally known who the landowner was, so clan affiliation was identifiable by location or estate name.

(See URL: <http://www.thebookofross.com/origin.php> for example.)

An example of **confusing textual recordation of a pseudo-surname**, BEFORE standardized surnames were adopted is this entry from, Sir David Dalrymple’s, *THE ANNAL’s of SCOTLAND*, Edinburgh, 1779, p. 168.



Please take note, that this John is actually recorded in Latin as, **Johnnes videlicet Thomae**, NOT **John Thomfon (sic the f is s)**, in reference to Edward Bruce’s war in Ireland, begun in 1315. However, he is often referend to as *John Thomson erroneously*, but as he was of “low birth” he could not have had a surname this early. The Latin phrase *Johnannes videlicet Thomae*, literally means in English: *John namely* (or also known as) Tommy.

Perhaps the most rigorous proof for “Englished” or anglicized forms of MacTavish (Gaelic: MacTamhais) name comes directly from 2 Letters provided by the Court of the Lord Lyon on the next 2 pages:

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Mr. T. Thompson,
1665 Rickman-Monterrey Hwy,
Rickman,
TN 38580,
United States of America.

30th July 2008

Dear Mr. Thompson,

I have received and read your letter of 8th July with some surprise. You write about arguing a case before an unnamed adversary. I can assure you that the views put forward in my letters of 17th June and 18th March are my own and were intended to provide guidance and clarify the issue. They owe nothing to any MacTavish or MacTavish website. I have, however, been familiar with the surname MacTavish and its traditional eponym since researching my article on "The Earliest Campbells – Norman, Briton or Gael?" many years ago. MacTavish, as you say, is an anglicisation (or anglicised pronunciation) of the Gaelic Mac Tamhais, literally, 'son of Thomas'. The surname 'Thomson' came to be used by some - as a further anglicisation of the surname 'MacTamhais/MacTavish', initially, it would seem, in Argyll - Buchanan of Auchmar is an early authority here. Some MacTavishes, then, may have changed their name to Thomson; and some now called Thomson may descend from the family of MacTavish. But, of course, this does not mean that all who now call themselves Thomson are MacTavishes, or vice-versa. Clearly many, probably most, Thomsons are not. Incidentally Alastair Campbell, Unicorn Pursuivant, is quite right to suggest that, strictly speaking, 'Clan Tavish' is more accurate than 'Clan MacTavish'; just as 'Clan Donald' is more accurate than 'Clan MacDonald'.

The point I was trying to make, and with which you apparently agree, is that there are many apparently quite unrelated families of Thomson in Scotland. This presents a problem as regards recognising the head of the surname. Also, it is not quite right to say that 'Lyon has stated that "Thomson of the Ilk" is Henry Thomson, Lyon King of Arms, 1504-12', if this refers to me, without further explanation. The Workman Manuscript describes a Thomson coat of arms as 'Thomson of that Ilk', the only place I believe, where such a designation occurs. Some later hand has added 'of Gourlabank' to this. Stodart (*Scottish Arms*) in the 19th century noted that these were the arms of 'Henry Thomson, Lyon King of Arms, 1504-12; he held the lands of Kellar, Farnyslaw, etc., in the barony of Dirleton', but added his opinion that 'the designation of that Ilk is complimentary', that is, I take it, intended to compliment or flatter Henry Thomson. I have just noticed further that J.H. Stevenson (*Heraldry in Scotland*, 1914) in his list of holders of the Office of Lord Lyon at the end of his second volume (supplied by Sir Francis Grant) designs Lyon Henry Thomson, 1496-1512, as 'of Kellour'.

I enclose an information leaflet on Petitions together with a note of current Lyon Court fees. Arms are granted to individuals and to corporate bodies having a legal persona. They cannot be granted to clans as such, although clan societies and associations may qualify. As a relatively newly appointed Lyon I am currently reviewing the content of our information leaflets and website.

I trust that this is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

David Sellar
Lyon

David Sellar, FSA Scot, FRHistS
Lord Lyon King of Arms



THE COURT OF THE LORD LYON
H.M. NEW REGISTER HOUSE
EDINBURGH EH1 3YT
Tel. 0131-556 7255
Fax. 0131-557 2148

Our Ref: DS/BG

8 April 2008

Mr. T. Thompson,
1665 Rickman-Monterrey Hwy,
Rickman,
TN 38580,
United States of America.

Dear Mr. Thompson,

Thank you for your letter of 2nd April. I note what you write and in particular the fact that you are researching further references to the family of Thomson in Lothian and the Borders. I think that the transition from MacTavish to Thomson has to be seen in the context of many similar name changes in Argyll and other parts of the Highlands from a basically Gaelic surname, however spelt – and different spellings were legion in the past – to a more ‘polite’ and recognisably English form: for example, from ‘MacNeacail’ to ‘Nicolson’ in Skye, at least on the record, the Gaelic form of the name remaining unaffected in ordinary speech.

Yours sincerely,

Chief of Clan MacTavish, and therefore members of Clan MacTavish, agree that some Thom(p)sons are indeed MacTavishes, and that **ALL Thom(p)sons are NOT related to MacTavish**. This means that some Thom(p)sons are indeed MacTavishes genetically, or by sept association. No one, at any time, in Clan MacTavish has ever claimed that **ALL** Thom(p)sons are of Clan MacTavish. Some persons who are alive today, who bear a Thom(p)son, or similar, surname indeed, are factually related to Clan MacTavish. I am one of them. We don't really know how many there are, and these persons would remain genetically and heraldically MacTavish. Since some Thom(p)son are of MacTavish descent, the name change has brought about the issue of losing familial ancestral heritage, that can only be verified anew with genealogy and/or DNA testing. The **ONLY** way to substantiate a link to the MacTavish chiefly lineage, if heritage has been lost, is to trace one's genealogy, and/or provide a male relative's Y-DNA sample for testing. The bear truth is this, no one with a common name can know their heritage without going some research. There is no other way, *unless the family has retained this knowledge throughout the generations that they were indeed of Clan MacTavish, weather of the chiefs' bloodline or an adopted bloodline, but still members of the clan.*

There has never been a chief of any Scottish Thom(p)son, group, family, or clan, enumerated in any records at the Court of the Lord Lyon (please feel free to contact Lord Lyon for verification of this important point). The Thom(p)sons of the Lowlands and Borders DO NOT make up a *Highland clan*. MacTavish is a Highland Clan with its origin in, Donegal, Ireland, and then Argyllshire, Scotland. (See: Thompson, *History of Clan MacTavish*, Copyright publication 2012, USA Library of Congress, Otterbay Books, Baltimore. This book is also available at The Library of Congress (USA), HM New Register House, Edinburgh, Scotland, and on Kindle Books, at www.amazon.com).

Disingenuous statement 2: *There is ONLY one clan officially recognized by the Lord Lyon in Scotland as representing those of the name Thomson or Thompson.*

Statement 2, above, is not recorded anywhere at Lyon Court, and is therefore EXTREMELY MISLEADING. The Court of the Lord Lyon is an OFFICIAL COURT of Scotland and deals only in matters of Scottish Heraldry. Officially recognizing a clan, family member or organization with armorial bearings (coat of arms) does not give that entity any right except to display those arms and matriculation velum. The Court is NOT involved in determining who, or what names belong to which clan. Such is a matter for each *clan chief* to determine. *Since there is no "THOMPSON" chief*, and since other clans also have Thom(p)sons historically recorded within their clans, NO clan or organization may claim ALL Thom(p)sons. (See the Official website of the Court of the Lord Lyon, for further information.) Also review the above letters (again) from Lord Lyon Sellar, which disproves the hypothesis that there is only one clan in representation of Thomson or Thompson. Thomsons and/or Thompsons are claimed by clans Campbell, MacTavish, and MacThomas, the latter is a member of the confederated Clan Chattan. All three of the named clans have existed for eons. See URL: http://www.lyon-court.com/lordlyon/CCC_FirstPage.jsp (Website of the Court of the Lord Lyon and, URL: <https://www.clanchiefs.org.uk/chief/> (Website of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs)

Disingenuous statement 3. *MacTavish is a cadet of Thom(p)son*

Firstly, one must understand what a cadet is in terms of family and/or heraldry. A cadet is a branch (or direct genetic offshoot) of a patriarchal family composed of ONLY younger sons, not some extended or distant branch.

Collins English dictionary online <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/us/dictionary/english/cadet-branch> give this definition: *Definition: cadet branch in British the family or family branch of a younger son*

Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cadet_branch say this: "In history and [heraldry](#), a cadet branch consists of the [male-line](#) descendants of a [monarch](#) or [patriarch](#)'s younger sons ([cadets](#)). In the ruling [dynasties](#) and [noble](#) families of much of [Europe](#) and [Asia](#), the family's major assets—[realm](#), [titles](#), [fiefs](#), property and income—have historically been passed from a father to his firstborn son in what is known as [primogeniture](#); younger sons—cadets—inherited less wealth and authority to pass to future generations of descendants."

Hence, the understanding that a cadet or cadet branch is the genetically linked offspring of a senior house, or the patriarchal house; the younger sons. Cadetship is a purely genetic transference and may occur in each generation as the family expands. Thus, there could be both older and younger cadets.

In heraldry, particularly in Scottish heraldry, the coat of arms (armorial bearings) of a cadet branch must show differences in appearance from the senior or patriarchal house coat of arms (the undifferenced arms). The arms cannot be identical. (See: Stevenson, *Heraldry in Scotland*, Vol. II, Glasgow, 1914, page 279, Chapter X., Methods of Differencing the Arms of Cadets.)

In all of the records at the Court of the Lord Lyon, there exists not one genetic link of a Thom(p)son of Lowland or Border origin, which shows MacTavish as genetic offspring. In fact, no record whatever, of any kind, shows that any MacTavish descended from a Thom(p)son. It is therefore an IMPOSSIBLE and ridiculous assertion for MacTavish to be a cadet of any Thom(p)son. This assertion is likely based only on an illogical perception in the similarity of how the arms appear as recorded at Lyon Court.

Disingenuous statement 4: *Thomson is older than MacTavish*

*The very first mention of the Thomsons on the Borders in Scotland is the 1540s, by the English Lord Wharton in reports to the Earl of Shrewsbury involving thieving on the Borders of Scotland and England.*ⁱ

By the end of the 16th century authorities on both sides of the border were impatient with the lawlessness of those border clans, and their overlords were tasked with assurances of good conduct being required of them: and when old habits died hard, many were caught and hanged as rebels — Thomsons among them.ⁱⁱ

ⁱ <https://celticlife.com/clan-thomson>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.robertsewell.ca/lordthomson.html>

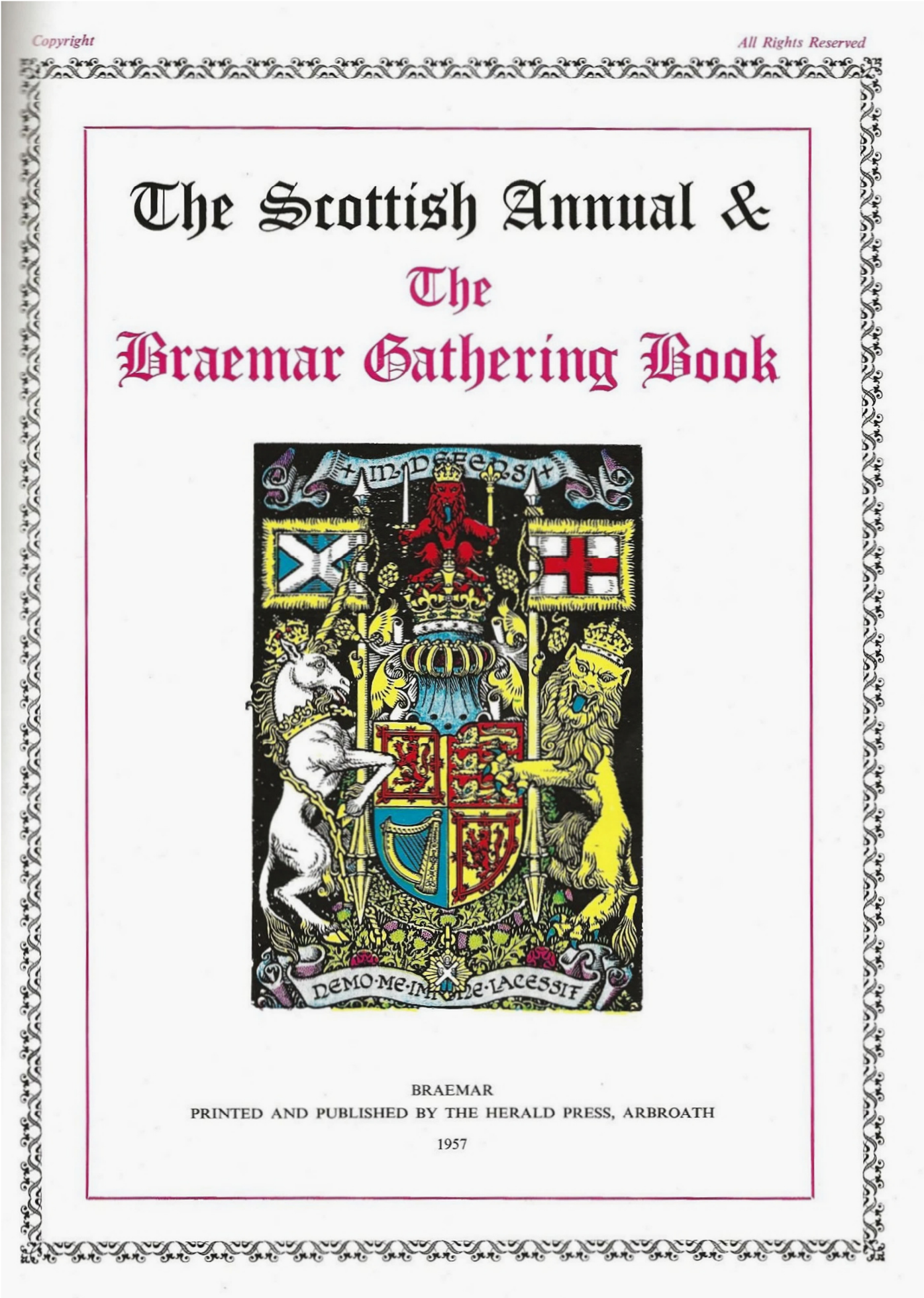
MacTavish is found much earlier than Thomson. As described in the *Argyll Transcripts*, from the records at Inverary Castle, produced by the later 10th Duke of Argyll, Chief of Clan Campbell, Niall

This is obviously a much earlier time than the 1540s noted for the Border Thomsons. The Duke also wrote a booklet about MacTavishes entitled, *The Clan Tavish*, which provides historical information, and three scans are given later. The following is the from *Argyll Transcripts*, **and note the year is 1355:**



Has anyone spouting nonsense about Clan MacTavish, done their due diligence in researching, reporting, or publishing materials on the clan? **The answer is clearly....NO!**

The oldest Scottish Gathering in Scotland is the Braemar Gathering, which has existed in one form or another since the reign of King Malcolm III (Canmore), *over 900 years ago, or since 1059 AD*. 40 years before Edward Stuart Dugald MacTavish was recognized in 1997 as the Chief of the ancient Clan MacTavish, by the Lord Lyon King of Arms, the historians of the Braemar Gathering published a list of clans with their appropriate tartans in the *Book of the Braemar Gathering*, in 1957. The list mentions that the ORIGINAL clans of Scotland are printed in all Capital letters. Here are four scanned pages from *The Scottish Annual and Braemar Gathering Book* of 1957, used with permission.





WHAT IS YOUR TARTAN?

A LIST OF THE SCOTTISH CLANS WITH THEIR SEPTS AND DEPENDENTS WHO MAY RIGHTFULLY WEAR THE TARTAN

The following list of surnames is divided into four classes, namely: Clans which have a distinct Tartan of their own; Clans which are distinct Clans but which have no Tartan of their own; Septs and Dependents of the various Clans; and old Scottish Families, who, though not strictly speaking Clans, have a Tartan associated with them. The original Clans of Scotland are printed in this list in Capital letters, and the old Scottish Families may be distinguished by an asterisk.




Family Name	Connected with Clan	Family Name	Connected with Clan	Family Name	Connected with Clan
Abbot	Macnab	CAMPBELL	CAMPBELL	Donald	MacDonald
Abbotson	Macnab	(Breadalbane)	(Breadalbane)	Donaldson	MacDonald
Abbernethy	Leslie	CAMPBELL	CAMPBELL	Donillson	MacDonald
Adam	Gordon	(Cawdor)	(Cawdor)	Donleavy	Buchanan
Adie	Gordon	CAMPBELL	CAMPBELL	Donlevy	Buchanan
Adamson	Mackintosh	(Loudoun)	(Loudoun)	Donnellson	MacDonald
Airlie	Ogilvie	CAMPBELL	CAMPBELL	Dougall	MacDougall
Alexander	MacAlister	(Strachur)	(Strachur)	*DOUGLAS	*DOUGLAS
Allan	MacDonald	Cariston	Skene	Dove	Buchanan
Allanson	MacDonald	Carmichael	Stewart	Dow	Buchanan
Allardice	Graham	*CARNEGIE	*CARNEGIE	Dowe	Buchanan
Alpin	MacAlpine	Cattanach	Macpherson	Dowall	Macdougall
Anderson	Ross	Caw	MacFarlane	Dowell	Macdougall
Andrew	Ross	Chalmers	Cameron	DRUMMOND	DRUMMOND
Angus	Macinnes	Cheyne	Sutherland	DRUMMOND	DRUMMOND
*ARMSTRONG	*ARMSTRONG	CHISHOLM	CHISHOLM	(Strathallan)	(Strathallan)
Arthur	MacArthur	Clark	Cameron	DRUMMOND	DRUMMOND
Ayson	Mackintosh	Clarke	Cameron	(Perth)	(Perth)
		Clarkson	Cameron	Duff	MacDuff
Bain	Mackay	Clerk	Cameron	Duffie	Macfie
BAIRD	BAIRD	Clouston	Sinclair	Duffy	Macfie
Bannatyne	Campbell	Clyne	Sinclair	Duilach	Stewart
Bannerman	Forbes	Collier	Robertson	*DUNBAR	*DUNBAR
Bartholomew	MacFarlane	Colman	Buchanan	Duncan	Robertson
Baxter	Macmillan	COLQUHOUN	COLQUHOUN	Duncanson	Robertson
Bayne	Mackay	Colson	MacDonald	*DUNDAS	*DUNDAS
Bean	MacBean	Colyear	Robertson	Dunnachie	Robertson
Beath	MacDonald	Combich	Stewart of Appin	du Plessis	Hay
Beaton	MacDonald	Combie	Mackintosh	Dyce	Skene
Bell	Macmillan	Comrie	MacGregor	Edie	Gordon
Berkeley	Barclay	Conacher	MacDougall	Elder	Mackintosh
Bethune	MacDonald	Connall	MacDonald	*ELLIOT	*ELLIOT
Beton	MacDonald	Connell	MacDonald	Ennis	Innes
Black	Lamont	Conochie	Campbell	*ERSKINE	*ERSKINE
Bontein	Graham	Coulson	MacDonald	Erroll	Hay
Bontine	Graham	Coutts	Farquharson	Esson	Mackintosh
Bourdon	Lamont	Cowan	Colquhoun	Ewan	MacLachlan
Buntain	Graham	Crawford	Lindsay	Ewen	MacLachlan
Bunten	Graham	Crerar	Mackintosh	Ewing	MacLachlan
Buntine	Graham	Crookshanks	Stewart	Farquhar	Farquharson
Bowie	MacDonald	Cruikshanks	Stewart	FARQUHARSON	FARQUHARSON
Boyd	Stewart	Culchone	Colquhoun	Federith	Sutherland
Brebner	Farquharson	CUMMING	CUMMING	Fergus	Ferguson
Brieve	Morrison	*CUNNINGHAM	*CUNNINGHAM	FERGUSON	FERGUSON
BRODIE	BRODIE	Currie	MacDonald	Ferries	Ferguson
Brown	Lamont	Dallas	Mackintosh	Fersen	Macpherson
*BRUCE	*BRUCE	Darroch	MacDonald	Fife	MacDuff
Brus	Bruce	DAVIDSON	DAVIDSON	Findlay	Farquharson
Buchan	Cumming	Davie	Davidson	Findlayson	Farquharson
BUCHANAN	BUCHANAN	Davis	Davidson	Finlay	Farquharson
Burdon	Lamont	Davison	Davidson	Finlayson	Farquharson
Burns	Campbell	Dawson	Davidson	Fleming	Murray
Burnes	Campbell	Delgaty	Hay	Fletcher	MacGregor
Burnett	Campbell	Denoon	Campbell	FORBES	FORBES
Caird	Sinclair	Denune	Campbell	Fordyce	Forbes
Caddell	Campbell	Deuchar	Lindsay	Foulis	Munro
Calder	Campbell	Dewar	MacNab	France	Stewart
Callum	MacLeod	Dingwall	Munro	FRASER	FRASER
CAMERON	CAMERON	Dis or Dise	Skene	Frissell	Fraser
CAMPBELL	CAMPBELL	Doles	Mackintosh	Frizell	Fraser
(Argyll)	(Argyll)	Donachie	Robertson	Fullarton	Stuart
			T		


Now follows an eye-opening record for anyone who attempts to publish nonsense (or actually believes it), about Clan MacTavish, provided by the Braemar Gathering historians.

Note that MACTAVISH is printed in ALL CAPITAL LETTERS, and is therefore an ORIGINAL Scottish clan, with an ancient past.


MacLaine		MacLauchlan		MacLeod		MacPherson	
Family Name	Connected with Clan	Family Name	Connected with Clan	Family Name	Connected with Clan	Family Name	Connected with Clan
MacLucas	Lamont	MacOnie	Cameron	MacSporran	MacDonald	MacTear	Ross
MacLugash	MacDougall	MacOran	Campbell	MacSwan	Macqueen	MacThomas	Campbell
MacLulich	MacDougall	MacO'Shannaig	MacDonald	MacSven	Macqueen	MacTier	Ross
MacLymont	Lamont	Macoul	MacDougall	MacSween	Macqueen	MacTire	Ross
MacMartin	Cameron	MacOurlic	Cameron	MacSwyde	Macqueen	MacUlric	Cameron
MacMaster	Buchanan	Macowl	MacDougall	MacSymon	Fraser	MacUre	Campbell
MacMath	Matheson	MacOwen	Campbell	MacTaggart	Ross	Macvail	Cameron
MacMaurice	Buchanan	MacPatrick	Lamont	MacTary	Innes	MacVanish	MacKenzie
MacKenzie	Menzies	MacPeter	MacGregor	MacTause	Campbell	MacVarish	MacDonald
MacMichael	Stewart	MacPhail	Cameron	MACTAVISH	MACTAVISH	MacVeagh	Maclean
MacMILLAN	MacMILLAN	MacPhater	MacLaren	MacTear	Ross	MacVean	MacBean
MacMinn	Menzies	MacPhiediran	MacAulay	MacTier	Ross	MacVey	MacLean
MacMonies	Menzies	MacPhedran	MacAulay	MacTire	Ross	MacVicar	MacNaughtan
MacMunn	Stuart	MacPhedron	MacAulay	MacUlric	Cameron	MacVinish	MacDonald
MacMorran	Mackinnon	MacPHERSON	MacPHERSON	MacUre	Campbell	MacVurich	MacDonald
MacMurchie	Buchanan	MacPhilip	MacDonell	Macvail	Cameron	MacWalrick	Cameron
MacMurchy	Buchanan	MacPhorich	Lamont	MacVanish	MacKenzie	MacWalter	MacFarlane
MacMurdo	Donald	MacPhun	Matheson	MacVearish	MacDonald	MacWattie	Buchanan
MacMurdoch	Donald	Macquaire	Macquarrie	MacVeagh	Maclean	MacWhannell	MacDonald
MacMurray	Murray	MacQUARRIE	MacQUARRIE	MacVean	MacBean	MacWhirr	Macquarrie
MacMurrich	MacDonald	MacQUEEN	MacQUEEN	MacVey	MacLean	MacWhirter	Buchanan
MacMutrie	Stuart	Macquey	Mackay	MacVicar	MacNaughtan	MacWilliam	Gunn
MacNAB	MacNAB	Macquhirr	Macquarrie	MacVinish	MacDonald	MALCOLM	MALCOLM
MacNair	MacFarlane	Macquoid	Mackay	MacVurich	MacDonald	Malcolmson	MacLeod
MacNamell	MacDougall	Macquire	Macquarrie	MacWalrick	Cameron	Malloch	MacGregor
MacNAUGHTON	MacNAUGHTON	MacQuistan	MacDonald	MacWalter	MacFarlane	Manson	Gunn
MacNayer	MacNaughtan	MacQuisten	MacDonald	MacWattie	Buchanan	Marnoch	Innes
MacNee	MacGregor	Macra	Macrae	MacWhannell	MacDonald	Martin	Cameron
MacNEIL	MacNEIL	Macrac	Macrae	MacWhirr	Macquarrie	Mason	Sinclair
MacNEIL of	MacNEIL of	MCCRACK	MCCRACK	MacWhirter	Buchanan	Masterton	Matheson
Colonsay	Colonsay	Macrauld	MacLeod	MacWilliam	MacDonald	Mathie	MATHESON
MacNEIL of	MacNEIL of	MacRaith	Macrae	MALCOLM	MacDonald	*MAXWELL	*MAXWELL
Barra	Barra	MacRankin	Maclean	Malcolmson	MacDonald	May	MacDonald
MacNeilage	MacNeil	MacRath	Macrae	Malloch	MacDonald	Means	Menzies
MacNeiledge	MacNeil	Macritchie	Mackintosh	Manson	MacDonald	Meikleham	Lamont
MacNeish	MacGregor	MacRob	Gunn	Marnoch	MacDonald	Mein	Menzies
MacNelly	MacNeil	MacRobb	MacFarlane	Martin	MacDonald	Meine	Menzies
MacNeur	MacFarlane	MacRobbie	Robertson	Mason	MacDonald		
MacNicol	MacLeod	MacRobie	Robertson	Masterton	MacDonald		
MacNichol	Campbell	MacRobert	Robertson	Mathie	MacDonald		
MacNider	MacFarlane	MacRorie	MacDonald	MATHESON	MacDonald		
MacNie	MacGregor	MacRory	MacDonald	*MAXWELL	MacDonald		
MacNish	MacGregor	MacRuer	MacDonald		MacDonald		
MacNiter	MacFarlane	MacRurie	MacDonald		MacDonald		
MacNiven	Cumming	MacRury	MacDonald		MacDonald		
MacNuir	MacNaughtan	MacShannachan	MacDonald		MacDonald		
MacNuyter	Buchanan	MacShimes	Fraser		MacDonald		
MacOmie	Mackintosh	MacSimon	Fraser		MacDonald		
MacOmish	Gunn	MacSorley	Cameron		MacDonald		




Menzies



Murray



Ogilvy



Robertson

229

"The Scottish clan system seems to have been pretty well established by the 11th and 12th century, but signs of their existence go back as far as the 6th century.

The word 'clan' comes from the Gaelic word 'clann', which meant 'family, offspring, children' and that's basically what clan still represents, a large family group.

The original clans of Scotland were basically extended family groups, the majority of members were related by blood and descended from a common ancestor." (See URL: <http://www.scottish-at-heart.com/clans-of-scotland.html>) //UNDERLINING SUPPLIED\\

Gaelic was the language of the Highlands, while Scots was the language of the Lowlands and Borders. Therefore, CLAN is a descriptive word of Highland Gaelic origin.



Sinclair



Skene



Stewart



Urquhart

Family Name	Connected with Clan	Family Name	Connected with Clan	Family Name	Connected with Clan
Mennie	Menzies	Peter	MacGregor	STEWART of	STEWART of
Menteith	Graham	Philipson	MacDonell	Appin	Appin
MENZIES	MENZIES	Pitulloch	MacDonald	STEWART of	STEWART of
Meyners	Menzies	Polson	Mackay	Atholl	Atholl
Michie	Forbes	Purcell	MacDonald	STEWART of	STEWART of
Miller	MacFarlane			Bute	Bute
Milne	Gordon	Rae	Macrae	STEWART of	STEWART of
Minn	Menzies	*RAMSAY	*RAMSAY	Galloway	Galloway
Minnus	Menzies	Rankin	Maclean	SUTHERLAND	SUTHERLAND
Mitchell	Innes	Rattray	Murray	Strachan	Mar
Monach	MacFarlane	Reid	Robertson	Swan	MacQueen
Monteith	Graham	Reidfurd	Innes	Swanson	Gunn
Monzie	Menzies	Revie	MacDonald	Syme	Fraser
Moray	Murray	Reoch	Farquharson	Symon	Fraser
More	Leslie	Riach	Farquharson	Taggart	Ross
MORRISON	MORRISON	Risk	Buchanan	Tarrill	Mackintosh
Mowat	Sutherland	Ritchie	Mackintosh	Tawes	Farquharson
Munn	Stuart	Robb	MacFarlane	Tawesson	Campbell
MUNRO	MUNRO	ROBERTSON	ROBERTSON	Taylor	Cameron
Murchie	Buchanan	Robison	Gunn	Thain	Innes
Murchison	Buchanan	Robson	Gunn	Thomas	Campbell
Murdoch	Donald	Ronald	MacDonell	Thomason	Campbell
Murdoson	Donald	Ronaldson	MacDonell	Thompson	Campbell
MURRAY	MURRAY	Rorison	MacDonald	Thomson	Campbell
(Athole)	(Athole)	ROSE	ROSE	Todd	Gordon
MURRAY	MURRAY	ROSS	ROSS	Tolmie	MacLeod
(Tullibardine)	(Tullibardine)	Roy	Robertson	Tonnochy	Robertson
		Ruskin	Buchanan	Tosh	Mackintosh
				Toshach	Mackintosh
Napier	MacFarlane	Sanderson	MacDonell	Tough	Mar
Neal	MacNeil	Sandison	Gunn	Toward	Lamont
Neil	MacNeil	*SCOTT	*SCOTT	Towart	Lamont
Neill	MacNeil	Shannon	MacDonald	Train	MacDonald
Neilson	Mackay	Shaw	Mackintosh	Turner	Lamont
Nelson	Gunn	Sim	Fraser	Tweedie	Fraser
Neish	MacGregor	Sime	Fraser	Tyre	Macintyre
Nicol	MacLeod	Simon	Fraser		
Nicoll	MacLeod	Simpson	Fraser	Ure	Campbell
Nicholl	MacLeod	SINCLAIR	SINCLAIR	URQUHART	URQUHART
Nicholson	MacLeod	SKENE	SKENE	Vass (or Wass)	Munro
Nicolson	MacLeod	Small	Murray	Wallis	Wallace
Nish	MacGregor	Smith	Clan Chattan	Watson	Buchanan
Niven	Cumming	Sorley	Cameron	Watt	Buchanan
Noble	Mackintosh	Spalding	Murray	Weaver	MacFarlane
Norman	MacLeod	Spence	MacDuff	Weir	MacNaughtan
		Spens	MacDuff	Wemyss	MacDuff
O'Drain	MacDonald	Spittal	Buchanan	Whannell	MacDonald
OGILVIE	OGILVIE	Spittel	Buchanan	Wharrie	Macquarrie
Oliphant	Sutherland	Sporran	MacDonald	White	MacGregor
O'May	MacDonald	Stalker	MacFarlane	Whyte	MacGregor
O'Shannachan	MacDonald	Stark	Robertson	Williamson	Gunn
O'Shannaig	MacDonald	STEWART	STEWART	Wilson	Gunn
O'Shaig	MacDonald	STEWART	STEWART	Wright	Macintyre
		(Prince Charles	(Prince Charles	*WALLACE	*WALLACE
		Edward)	Edward)	Yuill	Buchanan
Paul	Cameron	STEWART	STEWART	Yuille	Buchanan
Parlane	MacFarlane	(Royal)	(Royal)	Yule	Buchanan
Paterson	MacLaren				
Patrick	Lamont				

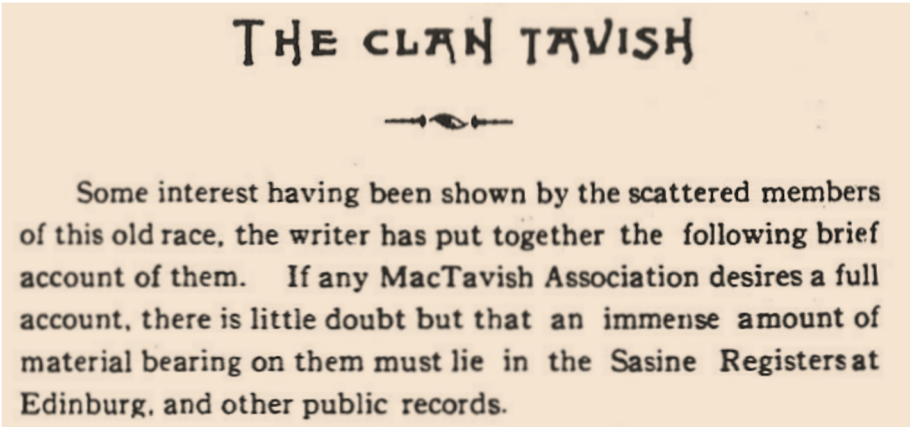
Since MacTavish is printed clearly in ALL Capital letters, as mentioned on the title page of tartans and clans, MacTavish is one of the ORIGINAL CLANS OF SCOTLAND. A clan denoting Thom(p)son as a clan in their own right, is not seen in this book. Thom(p)son is assigned as not being of MacTavish, but clearly is, according to Lord Lyon, previously noted.

Edward Stewart Dugald MacTavish was matriculated as Chief of the Clan MacTavish in 1997, by Lord Lyon, Sir Malcolm Rognvald Innes of Edingight, KCVO, WS, FSA Scot. (Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland, 35th page, 82nd volume.) This matriculation brought a 200-year dormancy of chiefship to an end for the MacTavishes. During the dormancy it was forgotten by the general Scottish community that some MacTavishes had changed their surnames to even more anglicized spellings, like Tawesson, Thomson, and Thompson. This is certainly noted in an abundance of scholarly works, and also by Lyon Court. Henceforth, the Chiefs of Clan MacTavish have claimed such surnames as being of Clan MacTavish. Such names were once called Septs, but are now referred to as *Associated Family Names*, and this is the preferred reference of Lyon Court. Noted before, Clan MacTavish agrees that Scottish persons, or their descendants, who bear such names do not ALL belong to Clan MacTavish. As such only those

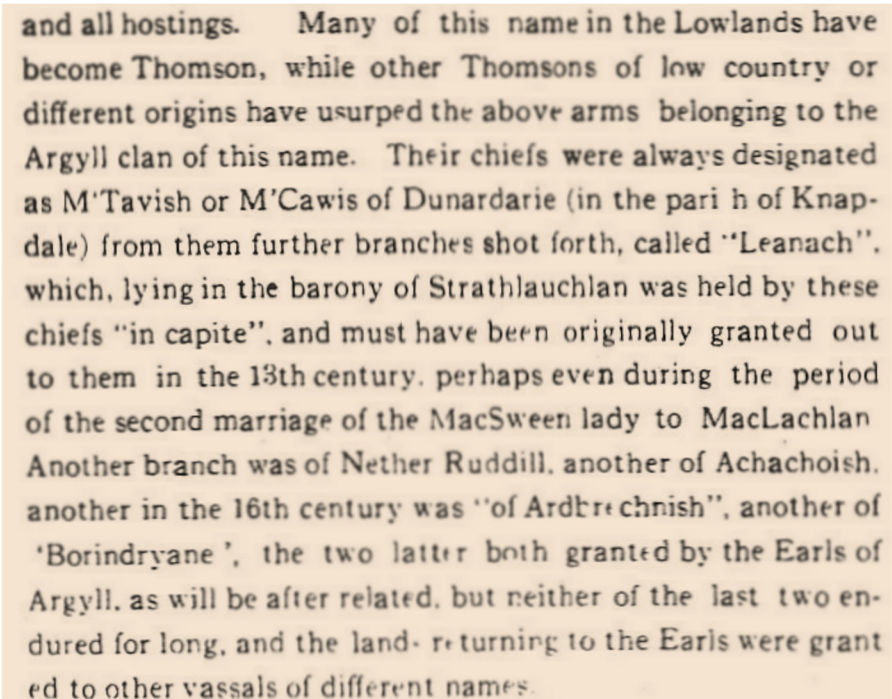
families who descend from MacTavish and who have anglicized their surnames would be MacTavish clan members, unless, however, they have chosen to follow Chief MacTavish of their own accord.

If anyone has doubt of the authenticity of the Braemar Book pages, please contact the Secretary of the Braemar Gathering at: email: secretary@braemargathering.org
tel: +44(0)1339741527. This contact information is found at the Braemar Gathering website, <https://www.braemargathering.org/>

The Clan Tavish is a booklet written by Nial Diarmid Campbell, later 10th Duke of Argyll, and Chief of Clan Campbell, ca 1870 (no exact date of publication is known). Here are three scanned excerpts from The Clan Tavish Booklet, which was reprinted in the OBAN TIMES newspaper in 2 parts, January 1 and January 8, 1910, Oban, Argyll, Scotland.

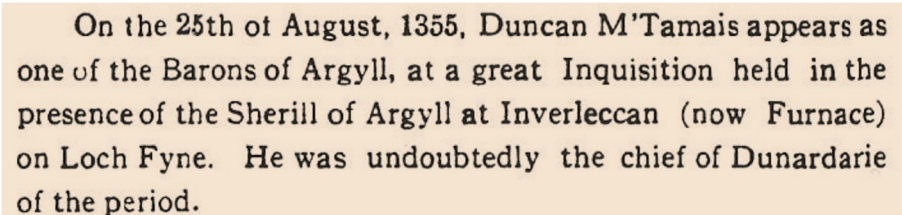


Page 1.



Page 2

(Note - In capite: fief holding directly from the Crown, as a Feudal Baron.)



Page 3

It is severely obvious that there was indeed a Clan MacTavish and it was endowed with having its own chiefs, and existed from a very early period in Knapdale, Argyllshire, as given in Scottish historical sources. It is even more obvious that Clan MacTavish existed well before the Lowland or Border Thomsons find mention. Clan MacTavish is literally ancient.

Disingenuous statement 5: *MacTavish was not recognized by Parliament as a clan.*

The example given to support *the FANTASTIC ILLUSION* that clan MacTavish was not recognized, or did not exist, is a record from the Parliament in 1587, but this Act ONLY reflects and mentions those clans who were disobedient to the laws of the Crown, or outlaws in the Highlands, Borders and Iles.

ACT OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT 1587

1587, 8 July, Edinburgh, Parliament

Parliamentary Register

29 July 1587

“For the quieting and keeping in obedience of the disordered subjects, inhabitants of the borders, highlands and isles.” (SEE URL: http://www.electricscotland.com/webclans/parliamentary_register.htm) Please take note that only the LAWLESS clans or families are mentioned in the Act.

The 1587 Act of Parliament writ, minus the foregoing text: following is the list of LAWLESS clans from the 1587 Act. **The ONLY clans and families listed are the LAWLESS clans!**

The roll of the clans that have captains, chiefs and chieftains whom on they depend, often times against the will of their landlords, as well on the borders as highlands, and of some special persons of branches of the said clans.

*** *Middle March***

- * Elliotts
- * Armstrongs
- * Nicksons
- * Crosiers

*** *West March***

- * Scotts of Ewesdale
- * Batesons
- * Littles
- * Thomsons
- * Glendinnings
- * Irvings
- * Bells
- * Carruthers
- * Grahams
- * Johnstons
- * Jardines
- * Moffats
- * Latimers

*** *Highlands and Isles***

- * Buchanans
- * MacFarlanes, Arrochar
- * MacNabs
- * Grahams of Menteith
- * Stewart of Balquhidder
- * Clan Gregor
- * Clan Laren
- * Campbells of Lochnel
- * Campbells of Inverawe
- * Clan Dowell of Lorne
- * Stewart of Lorne or of Appin
- * Clan MacKean of Ardvorlich
- * Stewarts of Atholl and parts adjacent
- * Clan Donachie in Atholl and parts adjacent
- * Menzies in Atholl and Apnadull
- * Clan MacThomas in Glenshee
- * Fergusons
- * Spaldings

-
- * MacIntoshes in Atholl
 - * Clan Cameron
 - * Clan Ranald in Lochaber
 - * Clan Ranald of Knoydart, Moidart and Glengarry
 - * Clan Lewis of the Lewis
 - * Clan Leod of Harris
 - * Clan Neil
 - * Clan Kinnon
 - * Clan Ian
 - * Clan Chattan
 - * Grants
 - * Frasers
 - * Clan Kenzie
 - * Clan Andrew
 - * Munroes
 - * Murrays in Sutherland

NOTES about clans not listed:

1. Clan Campbell of Lochow (or Lochawe) in Argyll, as it was known at that time, the Earl of Argyll, Chief of Clan Campbell, seated at the old Inverary Castle kept his clan, vassals, and followers in lawful order. The reason why this was done was that he might have, lost his freedom, or forfeited his lands and title, as he was duly responsible for their actions. At this time also the MacIvers and MacTavishes held their estates under charter from the Earl of Argyll. Hence the Clan Iver (MacIver) or Clan Tavish (MacTavish) are NOT given specific mention.
2. Some of the other clans that existed before this Parliamentary Act of 1587, and which are NOT mentioned in the 1587 Act include: Bannermen, Brodie, Bruce, Carmichael, Colquhoun, Dewar, Durie, Hay, Macpherson, just to name a very few. (See URLs: <https://www.clanchiefs.org.uk/chief/> - Website of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs.)

There are certainly numerous other clans and families not mentioned in this 1587 Parliamentary Act, or other parliamentary documents (another is dated 1594 mentioning clans or families) as being lawless and disobedient. If not mentioned in those Acts, does that mean that those clans or families did not exist? Of course not, and such an assumption is utterly ludicrous. As noted Clan MacTavish appears nowhere in this document, as it was obviously a law-abiding clan. It is quite fraudulent to attempt a complete dismissal by omission, without considering what the document entails...one cannot render a point of fact where no point exists. As noted previously from *The Clan Tavish*, and the *Argyll Transcripts*, and the *Book of the Braemar Gathering*, the MacTavishes certainly did exist, and before the Thomsons of the Lowlands or Borders were ever recorded as a raiding clan. While there is much more of this type of *erroneous information* on the INTERNET, one should actually look for correct information, and not rely on just one source for what *appears to be* a motivated smear on the MacTavishes (Author's opinion). Anyone reading this should also check for the correctness related herein. There is literally no objection by this author in doing so. Good sources of information are the Court of the Lord Lyon, and the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, and of course large reference libraries, should anyone truly care to know the truth.

Large reference libraries are a wonderful thing! Found is such a library is the oldest example for a very early MacTavish existence in Scotland. The text comes the Philological Society of London, the oldest learned society in Great Britain. The society's publication, *THE EUROPEAN MAGAZINE and London Review*, Vol. 23, Philological Society of London, J. Sewell, Cornwall, 1793, p. 358. gives an exemplary description of the early MacTavishes in Scotland by at least 893 AD. A scanned clip from this magazine appears below.

other children : our Author's father was married to a daughter of Campbel of Athfield, and her mother was a daughter of Mac Tavish, or Tompson of Dunardary. This is a very ancient and respectable family, who have inherited the estate of Dunardary for upwards of nine hundred years. Our Author was

This short excerpt from *THE EUROPEAN MAGAZINE* of 1793 distinguishes that MacTavish was also know as Thomson, and that they held their lands for an extremely long time prior to 1793. This clip is an historical reference by the oldest learned society in all of Great Britain. The Philological Society

of London, was founded in 1782 and was formally renamed the Philological Society (of Great Britain), in 1856. (See URL: <http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/book/lookupname?key=Philological%20Society%20%28Great%20Britain%29>)

1793 (the year of this publication) minus the (“upwards of 900 years”) subtracting exactly 900 years equals the year 893 AD (The math: $1793 - 900 = 893$). There is certainly no Lowland or Border Thom(p)son family/clan mentioned in Scotland’s history at such an early time.

Substantiated above are the facts that the MacTavishes are indeed a Highland Clan seated at Dunardry in Knapdale, Argyllshire, and the clan has existed at this location, and elsewhere, since at least 893 AD, and in reality, much longer. Members of Clan MacTavish have additionally anglicized their surname to more gentrified forms as well. Clan MacTavish is an independent clan, and is not connected to any other clan, as a sept, or cadet. (Please contact the Court of the Lord Lyon to verify, if in doubt.)

Despite these tricky approaches at discrediting the Clan MacTavish by publishing such biased information, it can ALL be disregarded as deceitfully manufactured pseudo-history. As such, material that eliminates truth is complete fantasy.

It is always a wise choice to seek *authoritive sources* when examining past events or origins!

In closing, the question arises as to WHY anyone, or any group, would produce and publish such disingenuous, historically inaccurate, and erroneous information about Clan MacTavish as presented preceding. Any historical presentation that eliminates, or adds to facts without verification, is not history at all...it is insincere and misleading prattle. The above historical extracted materials is absolute PROOF of the ancientness of Clan MacTavish, none of which was produced or written by any member of Clan MacTavish. ALWAYS be mindful of who you are dealing with.

I frequently suggest to people who are reading for the purpose of research that it is advisable to keep *open mind*..... as long as the FACTS do not fall out of the *opening*.

