



## CLAN MACCALLUM - MALCOLM SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA, INC. - A 501(C)(3) NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION

### The MacCallum/Malcolm Name & History of the Malcolm Family

The names MacCallum and Malcolm derive from the Gaelic name of Saint Columba of the Celtic Church, who brought Christianity to Scotland in 563. The Gaelic names for Saint Columba are **Cohn** or **Callum (Chaluim.)**. Maol Colm is an ancient form of Malcolm - **Maol** means "shaven head, i.e. a monk. **Mac** means "son of" Colm or Callum. Both names meaning 'servants' or 'devotees of 'Cohn' or Saint Columba.

Ian Gritnble, in his book *Scottish Clans & Tartans*, indicates that the MacCallums originated in the district of Lome in Argyll in what was the ancient kingdom of Dalriada settled by the first Scots from Ireland. He makes mention that, " the Campbells moved into the Lome district in about the 1300 -1400's - for so long settled by the MacCallums".



The Robin Malcolm Family Crest

The earliest reference to the MacCallums was in 1414 when Sir Duncan Campbell of Lochow granted lands in Craignish and on the banks of Loch Avich to Reginald MacCallum of Corbarron. The MacCallums now establishing lands and a Chief.

In 1510 Maol Caluilh (devotee of St. Columba) had a grant of the lands of Poltalloch, immediately southwest from the lands of Craignish castle, and was succeeded by his son Gillespie, or Archibald. Donald, son of Gillespie, was granted title to the property of Poltalloch by Duncan Campbell of Duntrune in 1562. This charter named 'Donald M'Gillespie vich O'Challuni, In Gaelic this reads: Domhnall mac Gilleasbuig Mhic Ui Chaluim' Donald son of Gillespie son of the grandchildren of Callum. This pedigree is that of the oldest stock, using the archaic form for a grandson of pallum.

Donald went on to have two sons. His son John was the first to bear the surname MacCallum. John had two sons, Archibald and Donald. Archibald was born in 1605, and in 1627 graduated from Glasgow University with a Master of Arts. Archibald had three sons, Zachary, Donald and Neil. Zachary Mor MacCallum, who succeeded his father in Poltalloch, was renowned for his strength and skill as a swordsman. At the battle of Ederline in 1647, Zachary met with Alasdair MacCholla (Colkitto, The Devastator), a MacDonald, who was renowned as the most ferocious swordsman in all Gaeldom. In single combat Zachary beat this giant of a man who stood almost seven feet tall. The Red Handed Horse Knight had met his match in Zachary Mor.

In 1779, Dugald MacCallum of Poltalloch became the Chief and Laird of the Poltalloch lands. He decided to adopt the surname Malcolm and since that time, the Chiefs have used the name Malcolm.

In 1792 the Malcolm's purchased Duntroon castle. It had been a Campbell strong hold that had been given to Duncan Campbell as a royal charter by Robert the Bruce, in recognition and gratitude to Duncan's father who had been a supporter of " The Bruce".

Neil Malcolm, 13th Laird, built Poltalloch House overlooking Loch Crinan around 1850. It was deserted in 1959. The ruins are a magnificent European mansion style architecture that has to be seen to be appreciated. The Chief's Coat of Arms decorates the corner facades in relief, and the ruins stand as a romantic monument to a bygone era.



Postcard sent to a relative of Neil D. McCallum dated July 11, 1929