



CLAN MACCALLUM - MALCOLM SOCIETY

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The Malcolm Family

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There could be some confusion about the name of this clan since it was changed from MacCallum to Malcolm in 1779. the Chief of the day, Dugald MacCallum of Poltalloch, preferred the name Malcolm for 'aesthetic reasons'.

Malcolm was the name carried by four Scottish kings and, curiously, the name 'Malcolumb' is recorded in a charter dating from 1094. The name MacCallum itself comes from the Gaelic, meaning 'son of the ghillie (or servant of Callum (otherwise S. Columba))'.

The family, however, certainly originates from the district of Lorn in Argyllshire, and its lands in Craignish and on the banks of Loch Awich were granted to Reginald MacCallum of Corbarron in 1414 by Sir Duncan Campbell of Lochow, with the hereditary offices of Captain of Crignish and Lochaffy Castles. In the seventeenth century, Corbarron passed to Zachary MacCallum of Poltalloch.



Motto:

He has attempted difficult things

Loch Crinan

The 1st Laird of Poltalloch had received his charter in 1562; this family, however lived at Kilmartin House and in the late eighteenth century started to build Old Poltalloch House, although this was never completed. Neil Malcolm, 13th Laird, built Poltalloch House overlooking Loch Carinan around 1850, but this was demolished in 1959.

The present Chief of the clan lives at Duntrune Castle, Kilmartin, a sixteenth-century keep, formerly a Campbell stronghold which was acquired by the Malcols, their neighbours, in 1798. Captain Neil Campbell of Duntrune and Oib, the last Campbell proprietor, had lost a fortune in the collapse of the Ayr Bank, of which he was a director, in 1785. On this death six years later his estate was sold by his trustees. With a superb outlook over Loch Crinan to the Sound of Jura, Duntrune claims to be the oldest continually inhabited *castle* in Scotland.

In 1898, John Wingfield Malcolm was created a peer with the title of Baron Malcolm of Poltalloch for his parliamentary services. His nephew, Sir Ian Zachary Malcolm, KCMG, was an equally distinguished member of parliament, and married the daughter of Lily Langtry, the celebrated beauty. Their son, Colonel George Malcolm, succeeded in 1944 and later commanded the 8th Battalion, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders from 1946-47, and was the first director of Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Arab Ponies

In 1959, he and his wife made Duntrune their home and transformed the interior, sympathetically removing the Victorian affectations. A farmer and writer, he established a reputation as a breeder of part-bred Arab ponies, and wrote several books on the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders plus the official history of the Argyllshire Gathering. His sister, Mary Malcolm, became well-known as a distinguished early television broadcaster.

Robin Malcolm succeeded his father in 1975, and serves as an independent district councillor and Deputy-Lieutenant of Argyll. He has always had a active interest in farming matters, and is

immediate past president of SAOS, the Scottish association of Agricultural Co-operatives. He farms Poltalloch and is married to Susan Freeman (1939-2004), daughter of the late Air Chief Marshal Sir Wilfred and Lady Freeman, ex Ross of Mull. They have two sons, Ian and Andrew, and two daughters, Kirsty and Josephine.

Schooldays

Robin Malcolm was sent to America at the outbreak of war and went to schools in California and Washington, returning to Britain in 1944. "I was then sent to a school in Sussex, which was far more dangerous than having crossed the Atlantic - it was right in the flight path of the doodlebugs. We were always having to dive under beds or desks when we heard them coming," he recalls.

In 1953, National Service with the Argylls took him to British Guyana. "One day I went to an Amerindian village," he recalls. "The natives got very excited and told me they were all Scots, too. They were all called Melville, after the first missionary to have reached them, and they were all very proud of their Scots connection.

"But," he admits, "it is very difficult being a cal chief when you are also a busy farmer. For example, I received a letter the other day addressed to my great-grandfather (who died in 1929) and the writer demanded to know *all* about the clan!

"There is a very enthusiastic clan society in the USA," he continues, "but as yet we don't have one in the UK. There are several excellent reference books where those interest can find out about the history of the clan- possible more than I know myself."