

# MacTavish

## A DISTINCT AND INDEPENDENT CLAN



Often one finds where the name MacTavish, or one or more of its septs (or connected names) is on the Sept List of other Clans. In part, this is due to a long dormancy within the Chiefship as the clan was without a ratified Chief for just over **Two Hundred Years**. Finding MacTavish sept names on another clan's sept list **does not indicate that Clan MacTavish is part of another Clan**. Clan MacTavish has a ratified Chief, as recognized by the Court of the Lord Lyon and by her Majesty the Queen, as an **independent Highland Clan**.

### **If several clans list your name as a sept, how do you know which one is correct?**

One must be able to trace his family line to the **FIRST** of his line to be absolutely sure. But, of course, it depends on the name. As an example: **Cash (MacCamish), Thomas, Thomson, and Thompson are not septs - THEY ARE THE CLAN**. The name Todd must be able to find the first of their line. If the first one was from the western highlands, then they are MacTavish sept. If from the northeast, then they are a sept of Clan Gordon. A Chief may choose to recognize any name as a sept of his clan.

Names such as Tom, which gave rise to surnames like Thomson, were widespread throughout Britain. Thus, there are likely Thom(p)sons who are not apart of Clan MacTavish. Ultimately genealogical research may provide where in Scotland your ancestors had lived and to what clan, if any, they had belonged.

If you are unsure, or cannot find the proof of your ancestors, it does not prohibit you from entering into a relationship with Clan and Family. You can usually join a clan that accepts the surname from which you descend. [See Clan Membership](#)

The 200 year dormancy of Clan MacTavish ended on 23 July 1997 with the matricuation, and ratification of the late **Edward Stewart Dugald MacTavish of Dunardry as Chief of the Name and Arms, and Chief of the Clan MacTavish**. He has been succeeded by his son and heir; **Steven Edward Dugald MacTavish of Dunardry**.

The letter from Lord Lyon, Sir Malcolm Innes of Edingigh, inserted below is published here with permission from the recipient and serves as evidence in support of the facts stated herein.

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The Lord Lyon King of Arms  
Sir Malcolm Innes of Edingight, KCVO



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24 May 2000

Dear Madam,

I have your letter of 16 May and have noted all you write. If I were you I should not waste too much time worrying about what appears on clan sites on the Internet. I have found that these sites seem to contain a higher percentage of inaccurate nonsense than most others! I answer your questions as follows:

1. Clan MacTavish is not a sept of Clan Campbell. It is a distinct Clan.
2. No tartan has yet been officially recorded for Clan MacTavish. A Petition is before me and it is likely that such a tartan will be officially recorded quite soon.
3. Dugald MacTavish is Chief of Clan MacTavish.

It is a pity that all these people spend time looking at the wrong records when they are in the Lyon Office. The time would more profitably be spent in consulting the statutory Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland declared by statute to be "the true and unrepealable rule of all arms and bearings in Scotland", wherein (Volume 82, Folio 36) Edward Stewart Dugald MacTavish of Dunardry is described as Chief of the Clan MacTavish.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Malcolm Innes of Edingight', written in a cursive style.