

- ❖ Moray
- ❖ Murray
- ❖ Murrie
- ❖ Murry
- ❖ Neaves
- ❖ Piper
- ❖ Pyper
- ❖ Smail
- ❖ Smale
- ❖ Small
- ❖ Smeal
- ❖ Spalding

## History of the Murray Clan Society of North America

Horace Murray and Harrell Murray III founded the Murray Clan Society of North America in 1969 at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in Linville, North Carolina. From those humble beginnings the Murray Clan Society has grown to nearly 500 members, coming from most Provinces and States in Canada and the US. The Society holds its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at a different Scottish festival/game



Heraldic Arms of the Murray Clan Society

each year. Information regarding the AGM and other Clan events can be found in the quarterly Society newsletter, the *Aitionn*, and at our website: [www.clanmurray.org](http://www.clanmurray.org).

Chief of the Murray Clan is His Grace, Bruce G.R. Murray, 12<sup>th</sup> Duke of Atholl. The present Duke holds numerous subsidiary titles. These include: *Lord Murray of Tullibardine* (1604); *Earl of Atholl* (1629); *Earl of Tullibardine* (1629 and 1676); *Marquis of Atholl* (created 1676); *Viscount of Balquhiddy* (1676); *Lord Murray, Balvenie and Gask* (1676); and *Earl of Strathray and Strathardle* (1703). All of the titles belong in the peerage of Scotland.

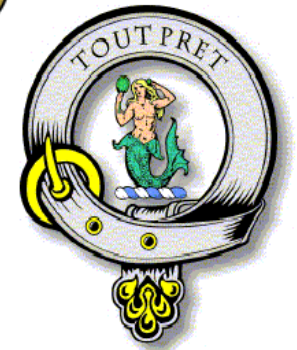
The Canadian and US Lieutenants to the Chief are Stanley B. Fleming and (position vacant), respectively.

Society patrons are: Margaret Y. Murray, Dowager Duchess of Atholl; Michael B.J. Murray, Marquis of Tullibardine; Alexander D.M. Murray, 9<sup>th</sup> Earl of Mansfield; Anne Murray, Dowager Countess of Dunsmore; Malcolm K. Murray, 12<sup>th</sup> Earl of Dunmore; Robert F.A. Erskine-Murray, 15<sup>th</sup> Lord Elibank; and William G.S.H. Drummond-Moray, 22<sup>nd</sup> of Abercairny.

Rev 6/22

# Murray Clan Society

## Histories



## History of the Murrays

The Murrays trace their heritage back to the 12<sup>th</sup> Century and take their name from the great province of Moray, once a local kingdom. It was during this time that the Flemish lords crossed the North Sea and established themselves in the Scottish realm. Among them was Freskin, son of Ollec. Either Freskin or his son William intermarried with the ancient royal house of Moray. The senior line

of the Murrays took the surname of Sutherland and became Earls of Sutherland in 1235.

Thereafter, chiefs of the Murray Clan were the Lords of Petty in Moray, who also became Lords of Bothwell in Clydesdale before 1253. An heir of this line, Sir Andrew Murray was the brilliant young general who, along with William Wallace, led the Scots in 1297 in their first uprising against the English conquerors. He was mortally wounded while winning his famous victory at Stirling Bridge. His son, Sir Andrew Murray, 4<sup>th</sup> Lord of Bothwell, 3<sup>rd</sup> Regent of Scotland, married Christian Bruce, a sister of King Robert the Bruce. He was captured at Roxburgh early in 1333 and was a prisoner in England at the time of the battle of Halidon Hill. He obtained his freedom in time to march to the relief of his wife, who was bravely defending Kildrummy Castle. Sir Andrew commenced with unabated spirit to struggle in the cause of independence and died in 1338. The last Murray Lord of Bothwell died of the plague in 1360.

The chiefship of the Murrays fell into doubt amongst the various scattered branches of the name—from Sutherland and Moray itself—through Perthshire and Stirlingshire

to Annandale, and the borders. By the sixteenth century, the Murrays of Tullibardine in Strathearn had assumed leadership of the Murray Clan. Bands of Association formally confirmed this in 1586 and 1599 when lairds from all over Scotland recognized the supremacy of the line of Sir John Murray (d. 1613).

In 1604 John was made Lord Murray of Tullibardine and in 1606 he became Earl of Tullibardine. Thus, the Tullibardine hegemony was firmly established between the Murrays.

Also in 1604 John's oldest son, Sir William Murray, married Lady Dorothea Stewart, daughter and heiress of John Stewart, 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Atholl (alternatively Athole) who had died in 1595. To the Stewart medieval crest was added the Murray of Balquidder mermaid (motto: Tout Prêt—quite ready). Sir William also assumed the Stewart of Atholl crest depicting a demi-savage holding a sword and a key commemorating the capture of the last Lord of the Isles in 1475 by the 1<sup>st</sup> Stewart Earl of Atholl; hence, the motto: Furth, Fortune, and Fill the Fetters—go forth against your enemies, have good fortune, and return with hostages and booty.

Since 1703 the head of the Murray Clan has been the Duke of Atholl. The

title was created by Queen Anne in that year for John Murray, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marquis of Atholl, with a special remainder to the heir male of his father. For a time in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century the Murray Dukes of Atholl were also Sovereign Lords of the Isle of Man, with their own coinage and parliament: The House of Keys. The 1<sup>st</sup> Duke's younger son, Lord George Murray, was the courageous Jacobite general responsible for the highlander's astonishing successes throughout the 1745 uprising.

Murray Clan plant badges are juniper (Gaelic: *aitionn*) for Atholl and the butcher's broom (Gaelic: *gaigbhealaidh*) for Murray. The crest badges are the Mermaid and Demi-Savage. Pipe music of the Murray Clan is the "Atholl Highlander."

There are a number of Murray tartans, but only four are generally available today: Murray of Atholl (ancient) Murray of Atholl (modern), Murray of Elibank, and Murray of Tullibardine.

Currently recognized names and families of the Murray Clan are:

- ❖ Balneaves
- ❖ Dinsmore
- ❖ Dunsmore
- ❖ Fleming