

~ The Clan ~

FERGUSON

~ Origin ~

CELTIC

~ The Chief ~

KILKERRAN

~ Area ~

BALQUHIDDER

~ Chief's Motto ~

DULCIUS EX ASPERIS

~ Clan Crest Badge ~

A BEE ON A THISTLE

~ Gaelic Name ~

MACFHEARGHUIS

~ Plant Badge ~

PINE, POPLAR

~ History ~



The Fergusons are not a clan, but a territorial family with many branches, some not related to one another. Families named Ferguson settled in Aberdeenshire, Ayrshire, Dumfriesshire, Fife and Perthshire.

The Fergusons of Kilkerran descend from Fergus MacFergus, who was given a charter by Robert the Bruce. They were keepers of the cross of St Chiaran, one of the twelve apostles of Ireland who came to Scotland in the 6th century.

Sir James Ferguson, the 2nd baronet, and his son were both Lords of Session under the names of Lord Kilkerran and Lord Hermand respectively.

James, the 6th baronet, was MP for Ayrshire and a colonial governor who died in the Jamaican earthquake in 1907.

Sir Bernard Ferguson was with the Chindits in the Far East in the Second World War. He became Governor General of New Zealand (1962-7), and was made a life peer in 1972, taking the title Baron Ballantrae of Auchairan. His nephew, Sir Charles Fergusson of Kilkerran, is the present chief.

The Fergusons of Craigdarroch in Dumfriesshire descend from Fergus, Prince of Galloway, who ruled in 1165, and married a daughter of Henry I of England. The lands have been in the family since the 15th century.

Annie Laurie of Maxwelton, subject of the famous song, married Alexander Ferguson of Craigdarroch.

The principal Highland branch are the Fergussons of Dunallandy, whose chief is called MacFhearghuis. Dr Adam Ferguson (1723-1816) was the chaplain to the 42nd Regiment and was present at Fontenoy. He was ambassador to the colonists in the American War of Independence, and was a close friend of Sir Walter Scott.

Robert Ferguson was a poet greatly revered by Robert Burns. He died in 1774, aged 23, in a lunatic asylum. Burns raised a monument above his grave.

The Fergusons of Strachur claim descent from the royal House of Dalriada. Their lands were Glenshellich of Strachur on Loch Fyne and were sold in the 19th century. The last known representative was Seumas Ferguson of New York, USA.

