

Henderson

The surname of HENDERSON was a baptismal name 'the son of Henry'. A small clan or sept of this name held lands in Upper Liddesdale, Scotland. The principal family of Hendersons was the Clan Eanruig of Glencoe. The Hendersons who were notable for their strength, always formed the body guard of the chief, and were the hereditary pipers of the Clan Abrach. From the Hendersons of Fordell in Angus is descended the famous, divine, Alexander Henderson (1583 - 1646) who filled a prominent position in the Presbyterian Church of Scotland during the most vital period in her history. With the assistance of Johnston of Wariston he prepared the National Covenant of 1638, and was a member of the Westminster Assembly which issued the Confession of Faith. Early records of the name mention David Hendirsoune who was a tenant of the Castletoun, Ardmanoch in 1504. James Hendirsoune had lands as heir of his brother in Glasgow in the year 1586. The associated arms are recorded in Sir Bernard Burkes General Armory. Ulster King of Arms in 1884.

Origin of Name: Henry's son
Plant Badge: Cotton grass
Gaelic Name: Mac Eanruig

A notable member of the name was Sir Nevile Meyrick Henderson (1882-1942) the English diplomat, born in Sedgwick, Sussex. He was minister to Yugoslavia (1929-35) ambassador to Argentina (1935-37) and to Germany until the outbreak of World War I. He wrote 'Failure of a Mission' (1940). It has long been a matter of doubt when the bearing of coats of arms first became hereditary and it was not until the Crusades that Heraldry came into general use. Men went into battle heavily armed and were difficult to recognise. It became the custom for them to adorn their helmets with distinctive crests, and to paint their shields with animals and the like. Coats of arms accompanied the development of surnames, becoming hereditary in the same way.

ARMS - Gules three piles issuing from the
sinister or chief engrailed ermine

CREST - A dexter hand holding a star argent
surmounted by a crescent gules

MOTTO - - SOLA VIRTUS NOBILITAT
Virtue alone ennobles