

# Scottish Personal Names

Iain Taylor

2023

*Tha an leabhar seo mar chuimhneachan air Tony agus Daisy.*  
*This book is dedicated to Tony and Daisy.*

## Foreword

This book aims to collate Scottish personal names in their English and Gaelic forms so that readers can access in one place first names and surnames together with the names of certain clans and chieftains. This is not an academic work dealing in great detail with individual names and with onomastic theory, but it is hoped to give readers easy access to Gaelic names in modern accepted orthography.

The first three sections of the book work from English to Gaelic in the assumption that most readers will be looking for the Gaelic version of an English name where such exists. The second three sections go from Gaelic to English and include and explain Gaelic names for which there are no English equivalents.

This collection is based on many sources such as dictionaries, especially Dwelly's, grammar books such as Calder's and Cox's and scholarly writings on poetry and literature, history, onomastics and genealogy. Several Irish Gaelic books have proven useful, particularly in relation to the names of saints, but this present book would have been a very demanding task but for the work of George F Black in his *Surnames of Scotland* first published in 1946.

Feumar taing mhòr a thoirt do Mheg Bateman airson a dhol tron chlà-sgrìobhainn leis a' chùir mhìn a' ceartachadh mhearachdan 's a' moladh leasachaidhean. 'S fheàrrde an leabhar a' cir. Anns an dealachadh, ma tha leughadair sam bith eòlach air ainmean nach eil a' nochdadh an seo no ma tha duine sam bith mothachail air mearachdan no leasachaidhean a tha a dhìth, cuirear fàilte chridheil orra.

## Contents

Introduction .....	5
Guide to Gaelic Pronunciation .....	10
Part 1: English to Gaelic	
Section 1: Female first names .....	13
Section 2: Male first names .....	22
Section 3: Surnames .....	40
Part 2: Gaelic to English	
Section 4: Female first names .....	109
Section 5: Male first names .....	114
Section 6: Surnames .....	132
Bibliography .....	154

## Introduction

Scotland is fortunate in having a multi-layered and diverse linguistic history. We know nothing of the first people who lived in what is now, and has been for well over 1,000 years, *Alba* or Scotland. Perhaps the first inhabitants of this country spoke a language linked to Basque which has been in western Europe since before the arrival of the Indo-European peoples who spoke Celtic, Germanic and Romance languages among others. Place-name evidence shows that Basque place-names are found almost as far north as Paris, so possibly speakers of that language/those languages had settled here too. We do know that Celtic Brythonic-speaking people lived on the island of Britain prior to the arrival of the Romans. Celtic languages can be split into two main branches - Continental and Insular. The Continental languages such as Gaulish have died out and the Insular Celtic languages form two sub-branches - Gaelic or Goidelic languages namely Scottish, Irish and Manx Gaelic and the British or Brythonic languages of Welsh, Cornish and Breton (brought to mainland Europe by British migrants) and Cumbric which died out in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The people north and south of the Clyde-Forth line spoke an ancestor language (or languages) of Welsh, Cornish and Breton. Place-name evidence shows that the Picts of the northern part of Scotland also spoke a Brythonic language, possibly different from that of the Britons of the south but "Aberchirder" in Banffshire shares the same generic element as "Abermilk" in Dumfriesshire, and other Brythonic generics are shared between north and south.

The accepted history - as well as the creation myth of the Gaelic people - indicates that Gaelic arrived in Argyll, which is *Earra-Ghàidheal* or "coastland of the Scots/Gaels", around 500 AD although it is hard to imagine that the Scots were not tempted to cross the twelve miles from Antrim to Kintyre or the twenty miles from Down to Galloway before then. The Anglian people, and their language which became Scots, migrated from mainland Europe to Northumbria at around the same time and spread into where the Borders are today and where the Anglian language replaced Brythonic. At the very end of the 8<sup>th</sup> century the Norse people and their language reached Shetland, Orkney and the north and west mainland and islands, leaving their mark in personal and place-names which made an indelible impression during the 500 years of their dominance. The expansion of Gaelic from Argyll pushed the Brythonic language southwards from Strathclyde while the Pictish language and culture succumbed to union with the Gaelic culture and polity. However, Gaelic receded under the influence of the Norse who eventually created their own realm in the north and west, the Kingdom of Man and the Isles, threatening the sovereignty of the Edinburgh-based kingdom of Scotland which also had independent-minded territories in Moray and Galloway to contend with. After the battle of Carham against the Angles of Northumbria in 1018, a Scottish state was established in which Gaelic- and Anglian-speaking communities lived within stable boundaries. At this time Gaelic was called "Scottis" and Scots was known as "Inglis". Gaelic was the language of the state until the rule of King Maol-chaluim III (Malcolm Canmore) during whose time the royal court switched from Gaelic to English. The Gaelic-speaking part of the kingdom was more numerous in population and included areas such as Annandale, Clydesdale, Fife and Nithsdale. Received wisdom suggests that Gaelic has been under pressure from English since around the 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> century but this fails to take into account the resurgence of Gaelic in areas such as Ayrshire and Dumfriesshire where place-name evidence in the form of "Dalmellington" and "Dalswinton" shows how Gaelic replaced English in the south-west for a period, while in the north-west Gaelic replaced Norse despite the hugely important legacy of Norse and the influence of that language on the sounds and vocabulary of modern-day Gaelic in that area. A fairly stable linguistic border consolidated itself across the country with Carrick and Galloway forming a Gaelic-speaking territory cut off (except by sea to Arran and Argyll) from the rest of the *Gàidhealtachd*.

Even today despite improvements in education and public awareness, it is not uncommon to hear claims such as "Gaelic was never spoken here", but even in the south-east where Anglian ousted Brythonic, we find some Gaelic place-names such as Longformacus ("Macus's camp") while others such as Maxton contain Gaelic personal names, in the case of Maxton, the same name as in Longformacus. Combined with other evidence, this allows us to infer that the aristocracy was Gaelic-speaking while the ordinary people spoke Anglian which had by now become Inglis, later to be known as Scots. Place-names such as Gilmerton were created in Inglis/Scots ("tūn" being a fermtoun or farm) but in commemoration of Gaelic notables, "Gilmer" being an approximation of *Gille Mhoire*, "follower of saint Mary".

A further example of the presence of Gaelic in an area with which it is no longer associated are the 12<sup>th</sup> century notes in the Book of Deer from Buchan. Interestingly, the last native-born Gaelic-speaker from Aberdeenshire died only in the 1980s, a woman born at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century at which time local native Gaelic-speaking people were found in the counties of Aberdeen, Argyll, Banff, Bute, Caithness, Dunbarton, Sutherland, Ross and Cromarty, Inverness, Moray, Nairn, Perth and Stirling, or just over one third of the counties of Scotland.

Given the long and continuing presence of Gaelic in Scotland, it is unsurprising that names of a Gaelic origin are so overwhelmingly in evidence and use as a marker of Scottish identity. However, Scottish personal names also come from important sources additional to Gaelic, namely English, Norse, Biblical and Classical European.

The first two sections of this book deal with female then male personal names which are given in alphabetical order according to their English form which is in bold type. Gaelic equivalents of each name follow in plain type. The forms of the Gaelic name(s) are then shown in their genitive and vocative forms, the genitive being a possessive form like "Michael's" in English and the vocative a form of the name used when addressing someone directly. The derivation and meaning of the English and Gaelic names are then given using the convention of English names in plain type while names in other languages are given in italics. In some instances, names mentioned in the explanatory text are given in bold showing that they occur in the book as separate entries.

By Gaelic names we mean names that were created in the Gaelic language whose elements can be interpreted in that language. Many Gaelic names are common to Scotland and Ireland (and also to the Isle of Man) but there are names which are peculiarly Scottish and peculiarly Irish, and only the Scottish and shared ones feature in this book. It is interesting that many names considered in Scotland to be Irish belong in fact to Argyll and/or Carrick and Galloway. Many Gaelic first names have fallen out of common use although we find them in patronymic surnames and in place-names, for example *Muireach*, "lord", is found in *MacMhuirich* anglicised as "Currie" and highlighted below, and in the farm name *Tulach Mhuirich* or Tullymurdoch in east Perthshire. Among the many Gaelic first names still current are *Fionnlagh*, meaning "fair warrior" and anglicised as Finlay, and *Muirgheal* which is "sea white" and anglicised as Muriel.

English names can include names which were originally created in German but with cognates in the English language, such as Winifred, meaning "friend + peace", and Walter which is "forest + lord". "English" is used here to mean Scottish English and includes Scots unless otherwise stated. In earlier times people used names only from their own language so that someone called "Edmund" is recognisable as a speaker of English/Scots. However, in the Gaelic-English linguistic border areas which held fast for centuries, Scots first names such as Robbie and Wattie began to be used by Gaelic speakers and anglicised Gaelic names such as Donald and Sheena began to be used in Scots/English areas and to become accepted as generally Scottish names.

Norse names have come down to us by two main routes, via the Gaelic or the English/Scots sound systems. Personal names from the same Norse source used in Shetland differ, sometimes greatly, from the same Norse names used in Gaelic in Lewis; *Tormod* from Ness is barely recognisable as Norman from Unst. Norse personal names have made a great impact on Gaelic nomenclature and are one of the reasons that among Scottish Gaelic names there are many which are absent from Irish Gaelic where Norse had less of an influence on nomenclature.

Biblical names are important wherever the Christian religion spread. Although a name such as *Iain* is thought of as archetypally Gaelic or Scottish it is, like so many others, of Hebrew or Aramaic origin, some of which came into Gaelic and/or English via Greek and/or Latin. In addition to internationally recognisable personal names from a Biblical source, there exists another set of names used in a wide variety of countries and originating in the Classical Greek or Roman civilisations. Names such as *Alasdair* and *Eilidh*, from Alexander and Helen, belong to this group which we recognise from the myths and legends of ancient Greece and Rome.

Before leaving first names, there are few points to be mentioned around the linkages between Gaelic and English names. The connection between *Dòmhnall* and Donald is clear in that the latter is an approximation in the English or Scots sound system of the former, but neither is a translation as such. The same type of connection exists between *Muirgheal* and Muriel and between *Ruairidh* and Rory. Some names are translations in that the meaning of a name in one language is translated into another as in French *Claire*, "light", being translated into Gaelic *Sorcha*. A different situation is that whereby *Eachann* becomes Hector in English as there is no real approximation in sound or any direct translation involved. *Eachann* contains the Gaelic words *each*, "horse", and *tighearna*, "lord or master", combined as *Eachthighearna* which has become simplified to *Eacharn* and *Eachann*. But what does that have to do with Hector? The answer is that the Greek mythological figure Hector of Troy was a renowned horseman and for that reason alone *Eachann* is usually rendered as Hector in English. Another situation is found in cases such as *Diorbhail* and Dorothy where there is no semantic connection between them and this comes closer to sound approximation in that both names start with *D* and contain *r*, but that appears to be all the connection there is between them. Unfortunately it has not been possible to explain or analyse every first name, mainly because names, like other nouns, can change their form through the centuries and become opaque.

The third section of this book deals with surnames, and it is worth considering how these came into being and the categories they form. In this respect, naming patterns vary slightly between Gaelic and English/Scots customs.

Both languages created patronymics, names meaning "son of", and we find these in names such as *MacDhòmhnaill*, MacDonald and Donaldson. One major difference between the two languages is that women's surnames begin not with *Mac*, "son", but with *Nic*, a contraction of *ní mhic*, "daughter of son". A man may be *Iain MacDhòmhnaill* but his sister would be *Màiri NicDhòmhnaill*. Differentiation between male and female surnames is not uncommon and is found in Icelandic as well as in many Slavic languages. There are two distinct and interesting groups of patronymics in Gaelic which both feature the noun *gille* which usually means "boy" but has specific meanings in the two sorts of name. The first group comprises surnames featuring *gille* followed by the name of a saint, such as *Mac + Gille + Fionndag* (Son + Follower + St Fintan) which are compressed into *MacIllfhionndaig* which is anglicised as MacLintock but also Lindsay. Names of this type are very common. This book regularises the spelling of *Gille* surnames as in the example of *MacIllfhionndaig*, but variants can be found such as *MacGillFhionndaig*, *MacGhillFhionndaig*, *MacIllFhionndaig* and so on. *Gille* is also used in names the English equivalent of which is simply

an adjective such as Brown or Reid, for example *Mac + Gille + Donn* (Son + One + Brown) which becomes *MacIllledhuinn*, Brown, and *MacIllleruaidh* which becomes Gilroy, MacIlroy, Milroy, Reid and Roy.

This last example shows how a single name in Gaelic can lead to a multiplicity of offshoots in English for a variety of reasons. MacIlroy is a clear illustration of how the Gaelic sounds in *MacIllleruaidh* were adapted fairly closely in the English/Scots form of the name. Gilroy shows how *Mac* was regularly dropped from surnames both in the Gaelic originals and the English adaptations. For example, in Kintyre and Arran (and possibly Carrick and Galloway) *Mac* was regularly reduced to *Ac* and sometimes only *C* before being dropped entirely. On the other hand, in some Lowland districts at times of conflict it could have been safer for Gaelic-speakers to omit "Mac" from their anglicised surnames, but that is a political rather than purely linguistic matter. Milroy shows how the initial *M* of *Mac* was retained but the *c* dropped. Roy is the most extreme contraction, leaving only the adjectival element of the original name in the anglicised form, while finally Reid is a translation of *ruadh* meaning "red-haired".

The process whereby *MacMhuirich* can become Currie is also worth looking at in some detail. As mentioned above, there was a tendency at particular times in history to drop *Mac* from names, and within certain Gaelic dialects there was a process though which the *Mac* element of a surname would become reduced. These steps can be seen in the case of *MacMhuirich* which in southern dialects in particular would have been *MacMhuirigh* showing a traditional and now disused genitive form of the first name *Muireach*. The consonant cluster underlined in the name, *MacMhuirigh* would have been simplified to *MacUirigh*, then *Mac* would be reduced to *AcUirigh* then to *Cuirigh* whence "Currie". A similar process would have been followed in many of the surnames beginning in English with "C" as shown throughout the text.

Occupational surnames are a major feature in the surnames of both languages and here again a slight difference is found between names in English and in Gaelic. It is normal to use just the name of an occupation as a surname in English, such as Turner or Wright, but in general Gaelic uses these terms in combination with *Mac* or *Nic* to give *Nic an Tuairneir*, "daughter of the son of the turner", and *Mac an t-Saoir*, "son of the joiner or wright".

Territorial names are commonly used in English, as in Birnie, Duffus and Logie, which may have been preceded by *de* or "of" before these were dropped to leave the place-name itself as a surname. Such names do exist in Gaelic such as *Ros*, *Sutharlainn*, and *Gòrdan*, but they are far less common than in English. Gaelic does have adjectival names like *Moireach* and *Gallach* which mean "Moray person" and "Caithness person" respectively but again, these are not plentiful. In Gaelic these territorial names, and other non-*Mac/Nic* names such as *Grannd*, Grant, are treated like adjectives so that women's names are in most cases lenited (i.e. *h* is inserted after the initial consonant to alter that consonant's sound). The sister of *Calum Grannd* would be *Anna Ghrannd*. Mention of *Grannd* and Grant serves as a reminder of a set of names that came into Gaelic and English from French place-names used as surnames during a time of Norman expansion. *Friseal* or Fraser, *Cuimein* or Cumming and *Brus* or Bruce are examples of these, and women's surnames of this type are lenited.

Some surnames began life as nicknames and two well-known Gaelic examples are *Caimbeul*, "crooked mouth" anglicised as Campbell, and *Camshron*, "crooked nose", anglicised as Cameron. Some English/Scots names also began as nicknames and there is an interesting group of surnames which started off as Gaelic nicknames that developed into surnames in English but which never became surnames in Gaelic. Moggach from *mùgach*, "gloomy", is one example yet no "official" Gaelic surname such as *Mùgach* exists. Similar to Moggach but much more common are simple



Gaelic adjectives such as *beag*, "small", *mór*, "large", and *òg*, "young", which have become the surnames Begg, More and Ogg in English but not in their simple form in Gaelic.

As well as nicknames, certain areas used tee-names which were completely different names attached to particular families sharing the same name in areas where there was little variety in surnames. This practice was common in fishing communities in Banffshire and Easter Ross. For example, in Portknockie in Banffshire there were many families called Wood and in order to distinguish between them, each family would have a different tee-name, such as "Deacon", which continued through the generations although never considered official or formal. In Easter Ross fishing villages there was a variety of tee-names such as *Tarail* which was used to designate certain families called *MacDhòmhnaill* or MacDonald, *Tàlach* attached to some families called *Sginnearach* or Skinner, and *Mhorair* attached to some named *MacCoinnich* or MacKenzie.

At this point it might be worth outlining briefly the four processes by which equivalents between Gaelic and English names have been established and consolidated: gaelicisation, anglicisation, substitution and translation. In the first two processes, the sounds in the first language are approximated in the second, so that *Teàrlach* is a gaelicisation of Charles and both *Deònaid* and *Seònaid* are approximations of Janet. In reverse Muriel and Clinton are anglicisations of *Muirgheal* and *MacIllfhionndain*. By substitution, *Raonaid* which is itself a gaelicisation of Norse *Ragnhild*, "counsel + battle", is considered to be an equivalent of Biblical Rachel, "ewe", because of similarity of sound rather than meaning. Translation is the least common device whereby names are linked in the two languages, those referring to colour providing the best examples, such as *MacIllebhàin* being rendered as White.

The whole subject of surnames is fascinating and very clearly explained in the introduction to G F Black's *Surnames of Scotland* (1946). Not all English names have Gaelic equivalents and vice versa. In the section dealing with surnames, the personal name element of patronymics such as Donald in MacDonald is not explained as these are discussed in the section dealing with male first names to which readers are referred.

The names of clans and sub-groups within clans are given in the text where these are known. Although clan and sept names relate to a society long gone, it is of interest to see how these groups of families and their leading members were referred to and how the style of titles in the Gaelic world was very different from that in English/Scots society.

Sections four, five and six of this book work from Gaelic to English and include names in Gaelic for which there are no equivalents in English. These sections allow the reader to see how Gaelic names have been rendered in English and the connections between names. In order to reduce duplication, names explained in the English to Gaelic part of the book are not re-explained in the Gaelic to English part, and the reader is referred back to the relevant section to find the derivation of any given name which has an English equivalent.

Gaelic orthography has undergone a series of reforms since the 1980s meaning that some spellings such as *Dòmhnall* and *Mòrag* are considered out-of-date, with *Dòmhnall* and *Mòrag* recommended in their place. With the exception of using the acute accent to illustrate the pronunciation of certain vowels, this book has followed the reforms, but it is completely up to individuals how they choose to spell their own name.

## Guide to Gaelic Pronunciation

This guide to Gaelic pronunciation first appeared in *Place-names of Scotland* published by Birlinn in 2011 and in the 2nd edition of 2021.

This brief guide to pronunciation gives approximate equivalents in standard Scottish English (except where otherwise indicated) for the letters and combinations of letters found in Gaelic. The Gaelic alphabet contains 18 letters (a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, l, m, n, o, p, r, s, t, u) but since the language has many more sounds than that, accent marks are used to indicate long vowels, *h* is added after most consonants to change their sound, and when consonants are combined with *i* or *e*, they become palatalised, as indicated below.

<i>Vowels</i>	<i>Approximate Sound</i>	<i>English Example</i>
a or ai	short a	cat
à or ài	long ah	father
ao or aoì	between ay and oo	Turkish kızıl
ea or ei	short e or ay	egg or take
èi	long e	French Sèvres
éi *	long ay	days
eò or eòi	yaw	yawn
eu	short ee-u	Italian Fiat
i or io	short i or ee	in or keep
ì or iò	long ee	fiend
ia	short ee-u	Italian Fiat
iù	short yoo	youth
iù	long yoo	use
o or oi	short aw or oa	top or coat
ò or òi	long aw	awe
ó or ói *	long oa	mower
u or ui	short oo	brood
ù or ùi	long oo	brewed
<i>Consonants</i>	<i>Approximate Sound</i>	<i>English Example</i>
b	b	big
b (+ e/i)	b + y	Bute
bh	v	very
bh (+ e/i)	v + y	view
c	k	cat
c (+ e/i)	k + y	kilt
ch	kh	loch
ch (+ e/i)	kh + y	German ich
cn	kr	crock
d	d	tip of tongue against back of teeth

d (+ e/i)	j	<b>jig</b>
dh	gh	<i>voiced equivalent of kh</i>
dh (+ e/i)	y	<b>yes</b>
f	f	<b>fig</b>
f (+ e/i)	f + y	<b>few</b>
fh	<i>silent</i>	-
g	g	<b>go</b>
g (+ e/i)	g + y	<b>ague</b>
gh	gh	<i>voiced equivalent of kh</i>
gh (+ e/i)	y	<b>yes</b>
h	h	<b>hat</b>
l	l	<i>formed by raising the back of the tongue</i>
l (+ e/i)	l + y	<b>lure</b>
m	m	<b>more</b>
m (+ e/i)	m + y	<b>mew</b>
mh	v	<b>vat</b>
mh (+ e/i)	v + y	<b>view</b>
n	n	<b>not</b>
n (+e/i)	n + y	<b>new</b>
p	p	<b>pat</b>
p (+ e/i)	p + y	<b>pew</b>
ph	f	<b>four</b>
ph (+ e/i)	f + y	<b>few</b>
r	r	<b>rock</b>
r (+ e/i)	th	<b>this</b>
rt	rsht	<b>harsh tone</b>
s	s	<b>sift</b>
s (+ e/i)	sh	<b>shift</b>
sh	h	<b>hat</b>
sh (+ e/i)	h + y	<b>hew</b>
t	t	<i>tip of tongue against back of teeth</i>
t (+ e/i)	ch	<b>chew</b>
th	h	<b>hat</b>
th (+ e/i)	h + y	<b>hew</b>

\* Since the issue of *Gaelic Orthographic Conventions* by the Scottish Examinations Board in 1981, revised in 2009 by the Scottish Qualifications Authority, the acute accent mark found in á, é and ó has been replaced by the grave accent mark as in à, è and ò. This is merely a spelling convention and does not affect pronunciation although the abolition of the grave accent has obscured pronunciation rather than clarified it.

## Section 1

### Female First Names - English to Gaelic

Where a name is mentioned in the text in **bold** the reader is referred to the entry under that name for further information.

#### **Agnes** Ùna

(unchanged in gen. & voc.)

The English and Gaelic names mean "lamb" in Latin and Gaelic respectively. *Ùna* contains the same letters as *uan*, "lamb", which in Latin is *agnus* and the origin of Agnes, and *Ùna* is also anglicised as **Winifred**.

#### **Ailsa** Ealasaid

(unchanged in gen. & voc.)

Ailsa is an anglicisation of *Ealasaid* which is a Gaelic equivalent of **Elizabeth**. *Ealasaid* is a widely used name in Gaelic and the emergence of Ailsa as a personal name may be as a result of the name the rock called Ailsa Craig, one of the Gaelic names of which is *Ealasaid a' Chuain*, "Elizabeth of the Ocean".

#### **Alice** Aileas, Ailios, Ailis

(unchanged in gen. & voc.)

The Gaelic names are gaelicisations of the English which in turn derive from the Greek for "truth", transcribed into English as *alíthea*.

#### **Amelia** Milde

(gen. *Milde*; voc. *a Mhilde*)

*Milde* was used in Lismore, and is a diminutive gaelicisation of the English name which is believed to derive from a Germanic root related to "industrious" and to be unrelated to the name Emily.

#### **Amy** Àine

(unchanged in gen. & voc.)

Acoustically similar names, *Àine* is a Gaelic name said to denote radiance and originally the name of a Gaelic goddess, while Amy is a diminutive of **Amelia**. *Àine* is no longer widely used in Scotland but is common in Ireland where it is used as an equivalent to Ann to which it is unrelated in origin. In Scotland the name is still known because of *Àine Nic Ruaidhri* or Amy MacRury who was the wife of Eòin, Lord of the Isles, in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and who encouraged the building of Castle Tioram in Moidart and Caisteal Bhuirgh in Benbecula.

#### **Ann, Anna, Anne** Anna

(unchanged in gen. & voc.)

Both the English and Gaelic names are equivalents of a name used in many European cultures in slightly different forms and originating from a Greek, and possibly ultimately Hebrew, source containing reference to "grace". A common diminutive of *Anna* is *Annag* (gen. *Annaig*; voc. *Annag*).

#### **Annabella, Annabelle** Anabal

(gen. *Anabail*; voc. *Anabal*)

*Anabal* is a gaelicisation of the English name which is an amalgamation of "Ann" and the French *belle* or Italian *bella*, "beautiful".

### **Barbara** Barabal

(gen. *Barabail*; voc. *a Bharabal*)

Barbara and *Barabal* derive from Greek meaning "foreign" or "strange". *Bàbag* (gen. *Bàbaig*; voc. *a Bhàbag*) is a diminutive form used principally in north and west Sutherland.

### **Beatrice** Beathag

(gen. *Beathaig*; voc. *a Bheathag*)

These two names are semantically unrelated but *Beathag* is felt to be an equivalent to Beatrice because both begin with similar sounds. Beatrice originates in Latin and refers to happiness whereas *Beathag* is a diminutive form of *beatha*, "life", and is the female equivalent of *Beathan*.

### **Bessie** Beasa, Beasag, Beasaidh, Beisidh

(gen. *Beasaig*, *Beasaidh*, *Beisidh*; voc. *a Bheasag*, *a Bheasaidh*, *a Bheisidh*)

These names were originally diminutives of **Elizabeth**. *Beisidh* was used in north Sutherland and *Beasa* is especially associated with Skye.

### **Beth** Beathag

(gen. *Beathaig*; voc. *a Bheathag*)

Beth is usually considered to be a diminutive of **Elizabeth** and *Beathag* is felt to be an equivalent to it because both begin with similar sounds, although unrelated in origin or meaning.

### **Betsy** Beatsag

(gen. *Beatsaig*; voc. *a Bheatsag*)

These names are diminutives of **Elizabeth**.

### **Betty** Beataidh, Beididh, Beitidh

(gen. *Beataidh*, *Beididh*, *Beitidh*; voc. *a Bheataidh*, *a Bheididh*, *a Bheitidh*)

These names are diminutives of **Elizabeth**. *Beididh* was used in Mar.

### **Bridget** Brighde

(gen. *Brighde*; voc. *a Bhrighde*)

This name was that of a Gaelic goddess who was adopted by Christianity as the saint called *Brigid* which developed into *Brighde* in Scotland and *Brid* in Ireland. As a result of the spread of the Christian religion, the name is common in a variety of forms in different languages and is said to derive from a proto-Celtic word meaning "high" and be related to the name of the Celtic people, the Brigantes, who were widely dispersed across mainland and insular Europe.

### **Catherine** Caiteirein, Caitir, Caitrìona, Catrìona, Catróna

(gen. unchanged; voc. *a Chaiteirein*, *a Chaitir*, *a Chaitrìona*, *a Chatrìona*, *a Chatróna*)

Catherine and its equivalents in English derive from a Greek term for "pure", transcribed as *katharos*, and became popular due to the spread of Christianity, an early saint being called by this name. *Caiteirein* is a gaelicisation of this and was used in Wester Ross. The other names are of Gaelic origin and are considered to be equivalents of Catherine because they sound similar. *Catrìona* is "cat queen" probably referring to a tribal people, and the other names stem from that. *Caitir* is an uncommon name while *Catróna* was restricted to Perthshire.

### **Cathleen** Caitlin

(gen. *Caitlin*; voc. *a Chaitlin*)

Cathleen is an anglicisation of Irish *Caitlín*, an equivalent of French *Cateline*, itself a form of

*Catherine*. In modern times, pronouncing *Caitlin* as though it were an English name has led to the new name appearing in a variety of spellings such as Kaitlyn etc.

**Cecelia, Celia** Sile, Sìleas

(gen. *Sìle, Sìlis*; voc. *a Shìle, a Shìleas*)

Celia is a name of Latin origin possibly referring to heaven and *Sìle* is a gaelicisation usually anglicised as Sheila. *Sìleas* is occasionally given as an equivalent but is more commonly associated with **Julia**.

**Charlotte** Seàrlaid, Teàrl, Teàrlag

(gen. *Seàrlaid, Teàirl, Teàrlag*; voc. *a Sheàrlaid, a Theàrl, a Theàrlag*)

Charlotte was originally a French feminine equivalent of a diminutive form of Charles, a name that suggests strength and vigour. The Gaelic names have the same derivation, with *Seàrlaid* being an approximation of Charlotte and the other two deriving from *Teàrlach*. *Teàrl* was used in north Sutherland.

**Christian, Christina, Christine** Cairistìona, Criosdan

(gen. *Cairistìona, Criosdain*; voc. *a Chairistìona, a Chriosdan*)

These names denote a follower of Christ. *Criosdan* was used in the eastern Highlands while *Cairistìona* was the usual form elsewhere. Originally a diminutive and now a name in its own right, Chrissie is gaelicised as *Criosaidh* (gen. *Criosaidh*; voc. *a Chriosaidh*).

**Claire** Sorcha

(gen. *Sorcha*; voc. *a Shorcha*)

Claire is of French origin meaning "clear" or "bright" and *Sorcha* means the same in Gaelic, although it is sometimes considered to be a Gaelic equivalent of **Sarah** because of their acoustic similarity although unrelated in meaning.

**Deirdre** Deirdre

(gen. *Deirdre*; voc. *a Dheirdre*)

This Gaelic name, which may stem from a word for "daughter", is that of the heroine of one of the most famous tales of the Ulster Cycle of legends and is associated in poetry mainly with Glen Etive but also Glen Massan in Cowal.

**Dolina, Dolly** Doileag

(gen. *Doileig*; voc. *a Dhoileag*)

These names are feminised forms of *Dòmhnall* and **Donald**.

**Dorothy** Diorbhail, Diorbhorghail, Eóraidh

(unchanged in gen.; voc. *a Dhiorbhail, a Dhiorbhorghail, Eóraidh*)

Dorothy originated in Greek, means "gift of God" and is unrelated to the Gaelic names which have become associated with it because they start with the same sounds. *Diorbhail* and *Diorbhorghail* mean "daughter of Forgall" who was a Gaelic god with *Diorbhorghail* also anglicised as Devorgilla, most notably in the name of Devorguilla of Galloway, the mother of King John Balliol. The name was earlier *Dearbhforghaill*. The divergent form *Eóraidh* was used in north Sutherland.

**Effie** Aithbhreac, Aoirig, Eifeag, Oighrig

(gen. *Aithbhrc, Aoirig, Eifeig, Oighrig*; unchanged in voc.)

Effie is often considered to be a diminutive of Euphemia which derives from Greek "well spoken" and was the name of an early Christian saint. However, Effie is also an anglicisation of the Gaelic

name *Aithbhreac* which is said to mean "newly speckled" but may in fact be a hypercorrection of *Aifric*, itself a gaelicisation of "Africa". *Aithbhreac* is notably associated with the 15<sup>th</sup> century Gaelic poet *Aithbhreac Inghean Coirceadal*, and the name developed into *Aoirig* and *Oighrig* often deemed to be equivalent to Erica and Euphemia, whereas *Eifeag* is a gaelicised diminutive of Effie itself. These names show how complicated the history of personal names can be, especially when dealing with cross-cultural references and a mix of languages.

**Elizabeth, Elsie, Elspeth** Ealasaid, Eilispidh

(unchanged in gen. & voc.)

These names derive from Hebrew meaning "God is my abundance" or "God is my oath". *Eilispidh* was used in north Sutherland and *Ealasaid* elsewhere. For diminutives often used as names in their own right, see **Bessie**, **Betsy** and **Betty**. A separate diminutive is Liz or Lizzie, gaelicised in Perthshire at least as *Lìsidh* (gen. *Lìsidh*; voc. *a Lìsidh*).

**Erica** Oighrig

(unchanged in gen. & voc.)

See **Effie**.

**Ethna** Eithne

(unchanged in gen. & voc.)

*Eithne* was the mother of the Gaelic god Lugh, and Ethna is an anglicisation of that, the name said to mean "kernel" or "grain".

**Euphemia** Oighrig

(unchanged in gen. & voc.)

See **Effie**.

**Eva, Eve** Eubha

(unchanged in gen. & voc.)

These names derive from Hebrew meaning "source of life". In Gaelic, *Eubha* is rarely used as a personal name in everyday life and usually refers to the Biblical character.

**Evelyn** Eibhlin

(unchanged in gen. & voc.)

*Eibhlin* is a common name in Ireland but much less so in Gaelic Scotland. Two possible derivations are given for it, one from an original Gaelic source meaning "beauty" and another as an adaptation of the French *Aveline* which is of unclear origin. Evelyn can be an anglicisation either of the Gaelic or of the French name.

**Fenella, Finella, Fiona** Fionnghal, Fionnghala

(gen. *Fionnghail*, *Fionnghala*; voc. *Fhionnghal*, *Fhionnghala*)

The English names are anglicisations of Gaelic *Fionnghal*/*Fionnghala* which means "fair shouldered".

**Flora** Fionnghal, Fionnghala, Flòrag, Flòraidh

(gen. *Fionnghail*, *Fionnghala*, *Flòraig*, *Flòraidh*; voc. *Fhionnghal*, *Fhionnghala*, *a Fhlòrag*, *a Fhlòraidh*)

For the meaning of *Fionnghal*/*Fionnghala*, see **Fenella**. *Flòrag*/*Flòraidh* are gaelicisations of Flora which is of Latin origin meaning "flower" and was the name of the Roman goddess of spring.

### **Frances** Frangag

(gen. *Frangaig*; voc. *a Fhrangag*)

These female equivalents of Francis and *Frang/Frangan* derive from French and mean "French" or "free man (sic)". The name became popular through St Francis.

### **Georgina** Seórd, Seórdag, Seòrdag

(gen. *Seóird*, *Seórdaig*, *Seòrdaig*; voc. *a Sheórd*, *a Sheórdag*, *a Sheòrdag*)

These female equivalents of George and *Seòras* derive from *georgos*, the Greek for "farmer". *Seórd* and *Seórdag* are the forms from north Sutherland while *Seòrdag* is used in Assynt. None of the Gaelic names were very common outwith the north and north-west.

### **Gormelia** Gormail

(gen. *Gormail*; voc. *a Ghormail*)

This Gaelic name is said to derive from *gorm shùil*, "blue eye", although this may be a folk etymology. It is occasionally anglicised as Millie.

### **Grace, Grizzell** Giorsal, Goirseil, Griseal

(gen. *Giorsail*, *Goirseil*, *Griseil*; voc. *a Ghiorsal*, *a Ghoirseil*, *a Ghriseal*)

Grace derives from Latin "gracious" and is semantically unrelated to any of the other names above. Grizzell originates in Germanic for "grey warrior" and is the source of the Gaelic names which have also been considered equivalents of Grace because they begin with the same sounds.

### **Harriet** Aralaid, Àrathaid, Oighrig

(unchanged in gen. & voc.)

Harriet comes from a French female version of *Henri* which is itself derived from Germanic for "home ruler". The first two Gaelic names are gaelicisations of Harriet, but it is unclear how or why *Oighrig* came to be considered as equivalent to the English name. *Aralaid* is associated with Cowal while *Arathaid* belongs to Mid Argyll.

### **Heather** Fraoch

(gen. *Fraoich*; voc. *a Fhraoch*)

In both languages the name comes from the flower, however in Gaelic *Fraoch* was originally a male first name as in the tale of *Táin Bó Fraoich*.

### **Helen** Eilidh

(unchanged in gen. & voc.)

Helen originated in Greek, possibly from '*eleni* meaning "bright", and *Eilidh* may be a gaelicisation of this.

### **Helga** Ealga

(unchanged in gen. & voc.)

Helga is a Nordic name meaning "holy" or "blessed" and *Ealga* is a gaelicisation of that.

### **Henrietta** Eiric, Heanag, Oighrig

(gen. *Eiric*, *Heanaig*, *Oighrig*; voc. *Eiric*, *a Heanag*, *Oighrig*)

*Eiric* is a form of *Oighrig* which is used in Wester Ross, while *Heanag* is a diminutive form of the English name and is used in north Sutherland. See **Harriet**.

### **Isabel, Isabella, Isobel** Isbeil, Iseabail

(unchanged in gen. & voc.)



These names come from an Italian or Spanish variant of the originally Hebrew name, Elizabeth. *Isbeil* was used in Northeast Ross, while *Iseabail* was common everywhere else.

**Jane Séine, Sine**

(unchanged in gen.; voc. *a Shéine, a Shìne*).

These names derive from Hebrew via Greek and along with Jean, Joan, Joanna and associated forms, are female equivalents of John which means "God is gracious". *Séine* appears to have been coined as an anglicisation of Jane perhaps in the 18<sup>th</sup> century but is rarely found now, although the village of Lochcarron at one time rejoiced in being known as *Baile Séine* or Janetown. The diminutive *Sìneag* (gen. *Sìneig*; voc. *a Shìneag*) is quite common.

**Janet, Jeanette** Deònaid, Seònaid

(unchanged in gen.; voc. *a Dheònaid, a Sheònaid*)

Janet and Jeanette were diminutives of Joan, and it is interesting that Gaelic retained the vowel sound found in Joan. *Deònaid* was used in Arran and Upper Banffshire with *Seònaid* more common elsewhere. See **Jane**.

**Jean** Sìne

See **Jane**.

**Jemima** Seumag, Simeag

(gen. *Seumaig, Simeig*; voc. *a Sheumag, a Shimeag*)

Jemima is of Hebrew origin and means "dove". The Gaelic names seem to be female diminutives of *Seumas* or James which are unrelated in meaning to Jemima but suggest that Gaelic speakers thought otherwise or chose it for its acoustic similarity. *Seumag* was used in north Sutherland.

**Jessie** Deasag, Seasag, Seasaidh

(gen. *Deasaig, Seasag, Seasaidh*; voc. *a Dheasag, a Sheasag, a Sheasaidh*)

Although now a name in its own right, Jessie was first considered to be a pet-form of Janet. The Gaelic names are gaelicisations of the English, with *Deasag* used in the southern and eastern Highlands and the others elsewhere.

**Joan** Seonag

See **Jane**.

**Joanna, Joanne** Seònaid

(gen. *Seònaid*; voc. *a Sheònaid*)

Although the English names are by-forms of Joan, the form of the Gaelic name associated with Joanna/Joanne is different from that linked to Joan and is usually anglicised as Janet. See **Jane** and **Janet**.

**Julia** Sileas

(gen. *Sìlis*; voc. *a Shìleas*)

Julia is a female equivalent of the Latin *Julius*, a name which suggests an affinity or relationship to Jove. Although associated with Julia, *Sileas* is unrelated to it (except for the consonants being similar) and is more closely linked to **Cecelia**.

**Kate, Katie** Ceat, Ceit

(gen. *Ceit, Ceit*; voc. *a Cheat, a Cheit*).

Kate and Katie were originally diminutives of **Catherine** and the Gaelic names are gaelicisations of

that. The Gaelic diminutives *Ceatag*, *Ceiteag*, *Ceitidh* (gen. *Ceataig*, *Ceiteig*, *Ceitidh*; voc. *a Cheatag*, *a Cheiteag*, *a Cheitidh*) are equivalent to Katie and very commonly used.

**Katherine** Caiteirein, Caitir, Caitriona, Catriona, Catróna  
See **Catherine**.

**Kathleen** Caitlin  
See **Cathleen**.

**Kay** Cé  
(unchanged in gen.; voc. *a Ché*)  
Kay is a diminutive of **Catherine** and Cé is a gaelicisation of it.

**Kenna** Ceana  
(gen. *Ceana*; voc. *a Cheana*)  
Kenna is a female equivalent of Kenneth, written in Gaelic orthography as *Ceana* with a diminutive, *Ceanag* (gen. *Ceanaig*; voc. *a Cheanag*), which has no equivalent in English.

**Kirsty** Ciorstag, Ciorstaidh  
(gen. *Ciorstaig*, *Ciorstaidh*; voc. *a Chiorstag*, *a Chiorstaidh*)  
Although these are now names in their own right, they developed as by-forms of **Christian**.

**Louise, Lucia, Lucy** Liùsag, Liùsaidh  
(gen. *Liùsaig*, *Liùsaidh*; voc. *a Liùsag*, *a Liùsaidh*)  
Louise is a female equivalent of French *Louis* which in turn stems from the Germanic *Chlodowig*, meaning "famous warrior". The Gaelic names are gaelicisations of Lucy which is an anglicisation of Louise.

**Maeve** Meadhbh  
(gen. *Meidhbh*; voc. *a Mheadhbh*)  
Generally considered to be an Irish name, apparently with connotations of "intoxication", *Meadhbh* (or *Medb* in the original form) was a heroine in the tales of the Ulster Cycle in which she was queen of Connacht, and the name also occurs in Scotland.

**Margaret** Maighread, Maighrearad, Mairead, Mairearad, Màrad, Margaid, Marghrad, Mearad  
(gen. *Maighreid*, *Maighreairaid*, *Maireid*, *Maireairaid*, *Màraid*, *Margaid*, *Marghrad*, *Mearaid*; voc. *a Mhaighread*, *a Mhaighrearad*, *a Mhairead*, *a Mhairearad*, *a Mhàrad*, *a Mhargaid*, *a Mharghrad*, *a Mhearad*)  
Margaret is derived via French from the Persian word for "pearl" and is found in many forms across the world. The Gaelic forms are numerous but the spellings generally reflect local pronunciations. *Maighread* and *Mairead* are fairly standard forms while *Maighrearad* and *Mairearad* were used in Argyll, *Màrad* in Lewis, *Margaid* in north Sutherland, *Marghrad* in Wester Ross and *Mearad* in Sleat and Strathspey. The diminutives Maggie and Meg have gaelicised forms, *Magaidh* (gen. *Magaidh*; voc. *a Mhagaidh*) and *Meig* (gen. *Meig*; voc. *a Mheig*) respectively.

**Margery, Marjory** Marsail, Marsaili  
(unchanged in gen.; voc. *a Mharsail*, *a Mharsaili*)  
These names are by-forms of **Margaret**. *Marsail* was used in the north and north-west mainland and *Marsaili* elsewhere.

**Marion** Mearan, Moirearad, Mór

(gen. *Mearain*, *Moirearaid*, *Móir*; voc. *a Mhearan*, *a Mhoirearad*, *a Mhór*)

Marion is believed to have originated as a by-form of *Maria* which became **Mary** and *Màiri* and stems via Latin and Greek from Hebrew, meaning "precious". *Maria* itself is a form of the original Miriam. The Gaelic name *Mór* means "great" and was considered equivalent to Marion because the consonants match. *Mearan* and *Moirearad* were both used in north Sutherland, but confusingly *Moirearad* looks more like a Gaelic equivalent of Margaret written to reflect local pronunciation, although locally anglicised as Marion.

**Martha** Marta, Moireach

(gen. *Marta*, *Moirich*; voc. *a Mharta*, *a Mhoireach*)

This is originally an Aramaic name via Greek, meaning "lady" or "mistress". The Gaelic name *Moireach*, which is unclear in origin, is unrelated but may have been deemed equivalent to Martha because the start of the two names sounds similar.

**Mary** Màiri, Mèarag, Moire, Muire

(gen. *Màiri*, *Mèaraig*, *Moire*, *Muire*; voc. *a Mhàiri*, *a Mhèarag*, *a Mhoire*, *a Mhuire*)

Mary originated, via Latin and Greek *Maria*, in Hebrew "precious" or "wished-for". The Gaelic names are from the same source, and *Màiri* is one of the most frequently used names in Gaelic. *Mèarag* is used in north Sutherland, while *Moire* and *Muire* are found only in the Bible.

**May** Màili

(gen. *Màili*; voc. *a Mhàili*)

May could have several sources, such as pet-names from **Margaret** or **Mary**, from the name of the month or even from Greek *Maia*, a goddess and mother of Hermes. In addition to being an equivalent to May and Molly, *Màili* seems also to be an alternative form of *Màiri*.

**Molly** Màili

(gen. *Màili*; voc. *a Mhàili*)

Molly is usually considered to be a diminutive of **Mary** and *Màili* is equivalent to it based on acoustic similarity.

**Morag** Mórág

(gen. *Móraig*; voc. *a Mhórág*)

This Gaelic name is a diminutive form of *Mór* which means "great".

**Murdina** Murdag

(gen. *Murdaig*; voc. *a Mhurdag*)

These names are female equivalents of Murdo.

**Muriel** Muirgheal, Muireall

(gen. *Muirgheil*, *Muireill*; voc. *a Mhuirgheal*, *a Mhuireall*)

This name of Gaelic origin refers to the bright sea.

**Peggy** Peigi

(gen. *Peigi*; voc. *a Pheigi*)

Peggy was originally a pet-form of **Margaret** and *Peigi* is a gaelicisation.

**Rachael, Rachel** Raghnaid, Raghnaill, Raghailt, Raicheal, Raonaid

(unchanged in gen. except that *Raicheal* becomes *Raicheil*; voc. the names are preceded by *a*.)

Rachael, Rachel and *Raicheal* originate in Hebrew, meaning "ewe". The other Gaelic names are from Norse *Ragnhild*, meaning "counsel + battle". Their acoustic similarity led to their being considered equivalents. It appears that *Raicheal* was used only in north Sutherland.

**Rebecca** Beathag

(gen. *Beathaig*; voc. *a Bheathag*)

Rebecca is from Hebrew, meaning "moderator" or "captivator", and unrelated in origin to *Beathag* which is a diminutive feminine form of Gaelic *beatha*, "life". The two names may have become linked because of the similarity in sounds between the latter part of Rebecca, and its diminutive form Becca, and the Gaelic name.

**Ruth** Rut

(gen. *Ruit*; voc. *a Rut*)

Ruth is of Hebrew origin and means "friend", while *Rut* is a gaelicisation of the Hebrew name.

**Sarah** Mór, Mórág, Sorchá

(gen. *Móir*; *Móraig*, *Sorchá*; voc. *a Mhór*, *a Mhórág*, *a Shorchá*)

Sarah is of Middle Eastern origin and conveys meanings of nobility such as "princess" or "lady". *Mór* and *Mórág*, both meaning "great", may have come to be considered equivalent to Sarah because of these notions of nobility or greatness. *Sorchá*, "clear, bright", is a Gaelic name sometimes anglicised as Claire but linked to Sarah because of their acoustic similarity.

**Sheena** Sìne

See **Jane**.

**Sheila** Sìle

See **Cecelia**.

**Shona** Seònaid

See **Janet**.

**Sophia, Sophie** Beathag

(gen. *Beathaig*; voc. *a Bheathag*)

Sophia is from the Greek meaning "wisdom" and it is unclear why *Beathag*, a diminutive of Gaelic *beatha*, "life", came to be considered an equivalent to it.

**Susan, Susie** Siùsaidh

(gen. *Siùsaidh*; voc. *a Shiùsaidh*)

Susan originates in the Persian for "lily" via Hebrew and *Siùsaidh* is a gaelicisation of the diminutive Susie.

**Sybil** Sibeal, Siobla

(gen. *Sibeil*, *Siobla*; voc. *a Shibeal*, *a Shiobla*)

These names are by-forms of **Isabel**.

**Una**, Ùna

See **Agnes**.

**Williamina** Bhulag

(gen. *Bhulaig*; voc. *a Bhulag*)

Williamina is a female equivalent of William. *Bhulag* is a diminutive form of this, based on Will and used in north Sutherland.

**Winifred, Winnie Ùna**

Winifred is an old English name meaning "friend" and "peace", and is unrelated to *Ùna* in origin or meaning although they share a slight acoustic similarity. See **Agnes**.

DRAFT

## Section 2

### Male First Names - English to Gaelic

Where a name is mentioned in the text in **bold** the reader is referred to the entry under that name for further information.

#### **Absolom** Abhsalan

(gen. & voc. *Abhsalain*)

Absolom is a Hebrew name meaning "father of peace" which was gaelicised as *Abhsalan* in the Bible and then used as a first name leading to the patronymic *MacAbhsalain*, "MacAusland" and other variants.

#### **Adam** Àdaidh, Àdhamh, Àididh

(gen & voc. *Àdaidh, Àdhaimh, Àididh*)

Adam is a Hebrew name possibly with a meaning connected to "earth" or "ground". In Gaelic *Àdaidh* and *Àididh* are familiar pet-names derived from *Àdhamh* which itself has led to the patronymic *MacÀdhaimh*, "MacAdam" and other variants thereof.

#### **Adamnan** Eódhanag, Eódhanan

(gen. & voc. *Eódhanaig, Eódhanain*)

This Gaelic name is mainly associated with the 7<sup>th</sup> monk and saint, Adamnan of Iona, who wrote the biography of St Columba. The name was written in Gaelic as *Adhamhnan* which became simplified to *Eódhanan* and an alternative *Eódhanag*. In these simplified forms the name is found in many place-names and dedications such as *Àird Eódhanaig* or *Ardeonaig* in Perthshire and *Rubha Àird Eódhanain* or Rowardennan in Stirlingshire.

#### **Aeneas** Aonghas

See **Angus**.

#### **Aidan** Aodhan

(gen. & voc. *Aodhain*)

*Aodhan* is a diminutive form of *Aodh* which has connotations of "fire" and which is rendered as Hugh and even Isaac in English.

#### **Alan** Ailean

(gen. & voc. *Ailein*)

This appears to have originated in Breton, meaning "deer", and to have spread throughout Britain and Ireland. Gaelic *Ailean* forms the patronymic *MacAilein*, Callan and other variants, which through back-formation may have brought the name *Cailean* into being. See **Colin**.

#### **Alexander, Alistair** Alasdair

(unchanged in gen. & voc.)

Alexander is of Greek origin, meaning "defender of people/men", and has spread throughout Europe in various forms. As *Alasdair* the name forms part of the patronymic *MacAlasdair* giving MacAllister and other variants. *Alaidh* (unchanged in gen. & voc.) is a diminutive and equivalent to Ali or Ally in English, while *Ailig* (unchanged in gen. & voc) is the gaelicisation of Alec, Alex and Alick. Sandy is also a diminutive of **Alexander** with a variety of gaelicised forms. *Sandag* (gen. *Shandaig*; voc. *a Shandaig*) was used in Wester Ross, *Sanndan* (gen. *Shanndain*; voc. *a Shanndain*) in Perthshire and *Sandaidh* or *Sanndaidh* (gen. *Shandaidh, Shanndaidh*; voc. *a Shandaidh, a*

*Shanndaidh*) elsewhere. The character "Para Handy" created by Neil Munro has an anglicised form of the name *Para Shandaidh*, meaning "Paddy (son) of Sandy". *Sanndaidh* is the basis of the patronymic *MacShanndaidh* which is anglicised as MacAndie.

### **Alpin** Ailpean

(gen. & voc. *Ailpein*)

This name may originate in Latin *albinus* meaning "fair", and is considered to be of great antiquity forming base of the surname *MacAilpein* or MacAlpine.

### **Ambrose** Ambras

(gen. & voc. *Ambrais*)

Ambrose is of Greek origin, meaning "eternal" or maybe "divine" and spread throughout Europe as a result of its close connections to Christianity. In Gaelic *Ambras* led to the patronymic *MacAmbrais* which was anglicised as MacCambridge among other variants.

### **Andrew** Aindreas, Anndra, Anndrais

(gen. & voc. *Aindreis, Anndra, Anndrais*)

Andrew is a name of Greek origin meaning "man" which spread throughout Europe along with the spread of Christianity. Various forms of the Greek *Andreas* are found in many cultures. The Gaelic names *Aindreas* and *Anndrais* were gaelicised from the Greek form, while *Anndra* is a gaelicisation from Scots. *Gillandrais* is a development of the name and means "follower of Andrew" but not many of the first names formed using *gille*, "follower", are still in common use. The various forms of the name in Gaelic have led to many patronymics such as *MacAnndra*, *MacAnndrais*, *MacIllanndrais* which have been anglicised as Anderson, Gillanders and MacAndrew as well as other variants.

### **Angus** Aonghas

(gen. & voc. *Aonghais*)

This Gaelic name means "single choice" or "single stem" referring to something strong and upright like a tree, and as part of the patronymic *MacAonghais* has led to a wide variety of anglicised forms such as MacInnes. At one time it was not uncommon for *Aonghas* to be anglicised as *Aeneas*, the name of the mythological Trojan hero.

### **Anthony** Antanaidh

(unchanged in gen. & voc.)

This name stemmed from the name of a Roman family of Etruscan origin, is unclear in meaning, and does not occur in any patronymic. It gained popularity as it was the name of an early Christian saint.

### **Archibald** Gilleasbaig

(gen. *Ghilleasbaig*; voc. *a Ghilleasbaig*)

Archibald is originally a Germanic name containing elements meaning "precious" and "bold" which became popular throughout Europe and particularly in Scotland. It is unrelated in meaning to Gaelic *Gilleasbaig*, "follower of the bishop", but has been linked to it through quite a convoluted misunderstanding. Names beginning with *gille*, "boy", later expanded in meaning to cover "follower", could often alternate with names starting in *maol*, "tonsured one", and indicated the name of a monk. Given that monks were tonsured and that *maol* can mean "bald", the "bald" in "Archibald" was understood to mean the same and *Gilleasbaig* was deemed equivalent to Archibald. The English name is fairly common as a surname and *MacIlleasbaig* is found as Gillespie among other variants. The diminutive form Archie is fairly common and is gaelicised as

*Eairdsidh* (unchanged in gen. & voc.), however *Beisdean* (gen. *Bheisdein*; voc. *a Bheisdein*), an abbreviated form of *Gilleasbaig*, was also used.

**Arthur** Art, Artair

(gen. & voc. *Airt, Artair*)

This is originally a Brythonic name connoting a bear which indicates strength or bravery. *Art* is a Gaelic equivalent of this whereas *Artair* is a gaelicisation of the Welsh name. This means that Gaelic has two names from different Celtic sources equivalent to the one name in English. As a patronymic *MacArtair* is usually anglicised as MacArthur but sometimes also as Carter.

**Asaph** Eiseam

(gen. & voc. *Eiseim*)

This originally Hebrew name suggests gathering or collecting. It is uncommon in both English and Gaelic and seems to be found only in church dedications and as the name of a saint.

**Aulay** Amhla, Amhlaigh

(unchanged in gen. & voc.)

The anglicised form is not in common use, and the Gaelic forms now likewise. *Amhla*, which seems to have been restricted geographically to Wester Ross, and the more frequently found *Amhlaigh* are gaelicisations of Norse *Ólaf* which contains elements referring to ancestry and heirloom. *Amhlaigh* is found in the patronymic *MacAmhlaigh* which is usually anglicised as MacAulay. There was a separate name of Gaelic origin, *Amhalghaidh*, which is unrelated in meaning to *Amhlaigh* and was found in the patronymic *MacAmhalghaidh* which was found as far north as Lennox and also anglicised as MacAulay.

**Bartholomew** Pàrlan

(gen. *Phàrlain*; voc. *a Phàrlain*)

Bartholomew is a name of Semitic origin possibly meaning "son of the twin". It is unrelated in meaning to Gaelic *Pàrlan* which is unclear in meaning but contains an element connected to the waves of the sea. *Pàrlan* forms the patronymic *MacPhàrlain* which is usually anglicised as MacFarlane.

**Basil** Boisil

(gen. *Bhoisil*; voc. *a Bhoisil*)

Basil comes from two separate sources, the first being Arabic and suggesting "brave" or "fearless", and the second from a Greek source meaning "king". *Boisil* is a gaelicisation of the name.

**Brandon, Brendan** Brianann

(gen. *Bhrianainn*; voc. *a Bhrianainn*)

This Gaelic name may be a borrowing from Brythonic, meaning "prince", and became popular due to the 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> century saint Brendan the Navigator.

**Bruce** Brus

(gen. *Bhrus*; voc. *a Bhrus*)

This was first a surname derived from the place named Brix in Normandy and adapted to the English/Scots and Gaelic sound systems. The name is firmly associated with King Robert the Bruce.

**Callum** Calum

(gen. *Chaluim*; voc. *a Chaluim*)



This Gaelic name means "dove" and is mainly associated with *Calum Cille* or Columba in English. Combined with *Maol* meaning "devotee" or "follower", the name changes to *Maolchaluim* which is anglicised as Malcolm. As a patronymic *Calum* gives *MacCaluim*, usually anglicised as MacCallum.

### **Cathel Cathal**

(gen. *Cathail*; voc. *a Chathail*)

This Gaelic name comes from two elements meaning "battle ruler" and leads to the patronymic *MacCathail* which is anglicised in a variety of guises such as Auld, Cail and MacCall.

### **Charles Seàrlas, Teàrlach**

(gen. *Sheàrlais*, *Theàrlaich*; voc. *a Sheàrlais*, *a Theàrlaich*)

This name was originally Germanic, meaning "free man" and related to modern-day *Karl*. Charles and *Seàrlas* came into English and Gaelic respectively via French, whereas *Teàrlach* is probably a gaelicisation of the English form of the name or its diminutive Charlie. Charlemagne, known in German as *Karl der Grosse*, was called *Seàrlas Mór* in Gaelic. A diminutive form of *Teàrlach*, *Teàrlag* (gen. *Theàrlaig*; voc. *a Theàrlaig*), was used in north Sutherland. *Teàrlach* can be found in the patronymic *MacTheàrlaich* which is anglicised as MacKerlich.

### **Christopher Crisdeal, Crisdean, Gillechrìosd**

(gen. *Chrisdeil*, *Chrisdein*, *Ghillechrìosd*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

Christopher is of Greek origin, meaning "Christ-bearer", but the Gaelic names are slightly different in meaning. *Crisdeal* and *Crisdean* are gaelicisations of Christian whereas *Gillechrìosd* is "follower of Christ". All three Gaelic names form patronymics such as *MacCrisdeil*, *MacCrisdein* and *MacIllechrìosd* which are anglicised as Chrystal, Christie and Gilchrist as well as other variants.

### **Clement Cliamhan**

(gen. *Chliamhain*; voc. *a Chliamhain*)

This name began as a French adaptation of the Latin for "merciful" which became adopted as a first name in English and in Gaelic. The church at Rodel in Harris which is the location of one of the few remaining sheela-na-gig carvings in Scotland is called *Eaglais Chliamhain*, "Clement's church".

### **Colin Cailean**

(gen. *Chailein*; voc. *a Chailein*)

This Gaelic name has two possible origins. It is widely accepted that the name began in Old Gaelic as what is now *cuilean*, "pup", and adapted slightly, but another view is that *Cailean* is a development of *Ailean* which began life in the form of a patronymic *mac Ailein* leading to *MacAilein* then *MacCailein* with a back-formation giving *Cailean*. See **Alan**. In any case the patronymic *MacCailein* exists in anglicised forms such as Colinson and Cullen but may have become mixed up with *MacAilein* which is anglicised as Allan, Callan and MacAllan.

### **Coll Colla**

(gen. *Cholla*; voc. *a Cholla*)

This Gaelic name has been in use for many centuries but is unclear in origin. One view is that, similarly to **Colin**, *Colla* is a back-formation from the patronymic *MacSholla* which includes *Solla* which is a Gaelic equivalent of Solomon. This story can be found in Black (1946).

### **Conn Conn**

(gen. *Chuinn*; voc. *a Chuinn*)

This Gaelic name is unclear in meaning but has appeared in various annals for over one thousand

years. *Conn* forms in the patronymic *MacCuinn* which is one of the names anglicised as **MacQueen**.

### **Connel** Conall, Conghail

(gen. *Chonaill, Chonghail*; voc. *a Chonaill, a Chonghail*)

*Conall* is a Gaelic name which appears to mean "high ruler" and forms the patronymic *MacConaill* which is anglicised as MacConnell and MacWhannell. *Conghail* may be the same name and as a patronymic is also anglicised as MacConnell from *MacConghail*.

### **Constantine** Còiseam, Cusadan, Cusaintin

(gen. *Chòiseim, Chusadain, Chusaintin*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

This name originated in Latin with the meaning of "constant" or "steadfast", and was the name of a number of kings of Scotland. In the form of *Còiseam* the name is found in the patronymic *MacCòiseim* which is anglicised as MacCoshin but in the Dunvegan area of Skye as MacDonald. The Gaelic poet *Donnchadh Bàn Mac an t-Saoir*'s famous gun to which he composed a song was called *NicCòiseim*, the female form of the surname.

### **Cormack** Carmag, Cormag

(gen. *Charmaig, Chormaig*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

This Gaelic name may mean "son of the charioteer" or just "son of Corb", and forms the patronymic *MacCarmaig* which gives Cormack or MacCormick in English.

### **Cuthbert** Cuithbeirt

(gen. *Chuithbeirt*; voc. *a Chuithbeirt*)

Cuthbert is an English name meaning "famous and bright". The gaelicisation of the name does not appear in patronymics but is found in *Cill Chuithbeirt*, "St Cuthbert's church", the Gaelic name of Kirkcudbright.

### **Cyril** Caireall, Caoral, Coireall, Cuirealan

(gen. *Chairill, Chaorail, Choirill, Chuirealain*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

Cyril stems from Greek and means "lordly" or "masterful". The Gaelic names are considered equivalent to Cyril but have different origins. *Caireall, Caoral* and *Coireall* are basically the same name but unclear in meaning. *Coireall* is found in *Cill Choirill*, the old church near Roybridge in Lochaber where the poets *Iain Lom* and *Dòmhnall mac Fhionnlaigh nan Dàn* are buried. *Cuirealan* is a diminutive form of these names.

### **Daniel**

This is a Hebrew name meaning "God is my judge" which spread as a result of Christianity.

Although unrelated, it was sometimes used as an English equivalent to *Dòmhnall*. See **Donald**. The abbreviation, Danny, is gaelicised as *Dànaidh* (gen. *Dhànaidh*; voc. *a Dhànaidh*).

### **David** Dàibhidh, Dàidh

(gen. *Dhàibhidh, Dhàidh*; voc. *a Dhàibhidh, a Dhàidh*)

This is a Hebrew name meaning "beloved" which spread throughout the world as a result of its links with Christianity. The patronymics Davidson and *MacDhàibhidh* are formed from this name in the two languages, but *MacDhàibhidh* is anglicised in several other ways especially in Banffshire and Moray where it occurs as **Day** and **Deason**.

### **Derek, Derick** Ruairidh, Ruaraidh

(gen. *Ruairidh, Ruaraidh*; voc. *a Ruairidh, a Ruaraidh*)

Derek was originally a Franconian name *Diederik*, meaning "ruler of people", of which Derick is an alternative spelling. *Ruairidh* and *Ruaraidh* are unrelated to this in meaning but Derick was taken to be an abbreviation of **Roderick** which is a common anglicisation of *Ruairidh/Ruaraidh*.

### **Dermot** Diarmaid

(gen. *Dhiarmaid*; voc. *a Dhiarmaid*)

This Gaelic name suggests "freeman" and is long established in literature and folklore as in the tale of *Diarmaid* and *Gráinne*. The patronymic *MacDhiarmaid* is usually anglicised as MacDiarmid.

### **Donald** Dòmhnall

(gen. *Dhòmhnaill*; voc. *a Dhòmhnaill*)

This Gaelic name means "world-ruler" and as such is equivalent in meaning to the well-known Russian name *Vladimir*. As a surname *MacDhòmhnaill* is usually anglicised as MacDonald.

### **Donnie** Dolaidh, Dòmhlán, Dòmhnallan, Donaidh

(gen. *Dholaidh, Dòmhlaín, Dhòmhnallain, Dhonaidh*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

Although used as a name in its own right, Donnie was originally a diminutive of **Donald**. The Gaelic names *Dolaidh* and *Donaidh* are gaelicisations of Donnie, whereas *Dòmhlán* and *Dòmhnallan* are diminutives of *Dòmhnall*.

### **Dougal** Dùghall

(gen. *Dhùghaill*; voc. *a Dhùghaill*)

This Gaelic name is "black(-haired) foreigner or non-Gael". In patronymic form it becomes *MacDhùghaill*, usually anglicised as MacDougall.

### **Douglas** Dùghlas

(gen. *Dhùghlais*; voc. *a Dhùghlais*)

This was originally a Gaelic place-name meaning "black stream" which was adopted as a surname and then a first name. *Dùghlas* is not found in patronymics but can act as a surname.

### **Dugald** Dùghall

(gen. *Dhùghaill*; voc. *a Dhùghaill*)

See **Dougal**.

### **Duncan** Donnchadh, Donnchan

(gen. *Dhonnchaidh, Dhonnchain*; voc. *a Dhonnchaidh, a Dhonnchain*)

This Gaelic name is "brown(-haired) warrior" and forms the patronymic *MacDhonnchaidh* which is anglicised in a variety of ways such as Duncan, MacConnachie and Robertson. *Donnchan* was used in Strathspey.

### **Duthac** Dubhthach

(gen. *Dhubhthaich*; voc. *a Dhubhthaich*)

This Gaelic name means "dark" or "black" and was the name of a saint associated with Tain and called *Dubhthach Albannach*, "Scottish Dubhthach", known as chief confessor to Ireland and Scotland. As well as in *Baile Dhubhthaich*, "Duthac's town", which is the Gaelic name of Tain, the name is also found in *Àird Dhubhthaich* or Arduthie in Kincardineshire and *Loch Dubhthaich* or Loch Duich in southwest Ross. *Dubhthach* also forms the rare patronymics *MacDhubhthaich* and *MacIlledhubhthaich* which have been anglicised as Duthie and MacDuff.

### **Edmund** Admann, Eumann

(gen. & voc. *Admainn, Eumainn*)

Edmund is of English origin meaning "protector of wealth" of which the Gaelic names are sound adaptations. *Admann* was used in Atholl and neither it nor *Eumann* appear to have formed patronymics.

**Edward** Eideard, Ìomhar

(gen. & voc. *Eideird, Ìomhair*)

Edward is an English name meaning "guardian of wealth" and *Eideard* is a gaelicisation of it. *Ìomhar* is a gaelicisation of the Norse name *Ívarr* which is unclear in meaning but unrelated to "Edward". *Ìomhar* appears in the patronymic *MacÌomhair* which is usually anglicised as MacIver.

**Eric** Eircean

(gen. & voc. *Eircein*)

Eric is from the Norse name *Eiríkr* or *Eríkr* which appear to mean "single ruler". *Eircean* was used in north Sutherland but does not appear in any patronymics.

**Euan, Evan, Ewan, Ewen** Eobhan, Eoghainn, Eoghan, Eóghann

(gen. & voc. *Eobhain, Eoghainn, Eoghain, Eóghainn*)

This name of Greek origin suggests nobility or someone well-born. *Eobhan* is an old-fashioned spelling, with *Eóghann* being more common nowadays and found in the patronymic *MacEóghainn* which is anglicised in several ways including Ewing and MacEwan.

**Farquhar** Fearchar

(gen. & voc. *Fhearchair*)

This Gaelic name means "man friend" or "manly friend" and forms the patronymic *MacFhearchair* which is anglicised as Farquharson, MacFarquhar, MacKerracher and other variants.

**Fergal** Fearghal

(gen. & voc. *Fhearghail*)

This Gaelic name means "manly strength" and is more associated with Ireland although it occurs in the patronymic *MacFhearghail* which is anglicised as MacKerral and in the place-name *Cnoc Fearghalaigh* or Knockfarrel in Easter Ross.

**Fergus** Fearghas

(gen. & voc. *Fhearghais*)

This Gaelic name is "manly choice" and is found in the patronymic *MacFhearghais* which is anglicised as Ferguson, MacFerries, MacKerras and several other forms.

**Fillan** Faolan

(gen. & voc. *Fhaolain*)

This name of Gaelic origin means "little wolf", a diminutive of *faol*, and is rarely encountered except in the compound *Gillfhaolain*, "follower of Faolan/Fillan". This latter forms the patronymic *MacIllfhaolain* which is anglicised as Gilfillan, MacLellan and several other variants.

**Finbar** Fionnbhar

(gen. & voc. *Fhionnbhair*)

Although uncommon as a first name in Scotland and primarily associated with Ireland, this Gaelic name meaning "fair head" is found in a number of place-names such as *Cill Fhionnbhair*, the original name of Kilninver in Argyll.

### **Fingal** Fionn

(gen. & voc. *Fhinn*)

This Gaelic name means "fair(-haired)" and is best known as the name of the hero of Gaelic legends and leader of the warrior band *Na Fianna* or the Fingalians.

### **Fingon** Fionghan

(gen. & voc. *Fhionghain*)

It is unclear what exactly this Gaelic name means although de Bhulbh (2002) suggests "fair born". As a first name this is uncommon but occurs in the patronymic *MacFhionghain* or MacKinnon.

### **Finian** Finnean

(gen. & voc. *Fhinnein*)

Calder (1923) believed this Gaelic name to mean "fair(-haired) old". As a first name it is very uncommon but in the compound *Gillfhinnein*, "follower of Finnean/Finian", it forms the patronymic *MacIllfhinnein*, anglicised as MacLennan.

### **Finlay** Fionnlagh

(gen. & voc. *Fhionnlaigh*)

This Gaelic name is "fair(-haired) hero" and forms the patronymic *MacFhionnlaigh* which is anglicised as Finlayson and MacKinlay.

### **Fintan** Fionndag, Fionndan

(gen. & voc. *Fhionndaig, Fhionndain*)

These names are said to be diminutives of *Fionn*. See **Fingal**. Both *Fionndag* and *Fionndan* are found in compounds with *gille* giving *Gillfionndaig* and *Gillfionndain*, "follower of Fionndag or Fionndan/Fintan", which are found in the patronymics *MacIllfionndain* and *MacIllfionndaig*. These are anglicised respectively as **Clinton**, Linton and MacLinton and as **Lindsay** and MacLintock. *Fionndan* also had the by-name *Munna* which appears in *Cill Mhunna*, the Gaelic name of Kilmun in Cowal. See **Munn** in Section 3.

### **Francis** Frang, Frangan, Frannsaidh, Frannsas

(gen. *Fhraing, Fhrangain, Fhrannsaidh, Fhrannsaidh*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

Francis and *Frang* derive from French and mean "French" or "free man". *Frangan* is a diminutive of *Frang* but *Frannsaidh* and *Frannsas*, the latter being used in Aberdeenshire, are gaelicisations of Francis. The patronymics *MacFhraing* and *MacFhraingein* lead to anglicisations such as Rankin and MacCracken.

### **Geoffrey** Goiridh, Goraidh

(gen. *Ghoiridh, Ghoraidh*; voc. *a* *Ghoiridh, a* *Ghoraidh*)

Geoffrey is a Norman French adaptation of a Germanic name based on "god + peace" which is also represented in English also by Godfrey. The Gaelic names are considered equivalents to both English names and come from the same Germanic source.

### **George** Deòrsa, Seòras, Seòrsa

(gen. *Dhèorsa, Sheòrais, Sheòrsa*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

These names derive from the Greek for "farmer". In Gaelic, kings and other dignitaries are called *Deòrsa* while lesser mortals are called *Seòras* or *Seòrsa*. Several diminutives, like Geordie in English, were used in different parts of the country, eg. *Deòrdag, Deòrdan, Seòrdaidh, Seòrdan* (gen. *Dheòrdaig, Dheòrdain, Sheòrdaidh, Sheòrdain*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms). *Deòrdag* was used in Strathspey, *Deòrdan* in Ross-shire, and *Seòrdaidh* and *Seòrdan* both in north

Sutherland. None of the Gaelic names formed commonly used patronymics although *MacSheòrsa* was anglicised in Inverness as Cuthbertson to which it is unrelated in meaning or origin. The anglicised surname **MacGeorge** does not stem from George.

**Gilbert** Gileabart, Gilleabart, Gillebrighde, Gioban

(gen. *Ghileabairt*, *Ghilleabairt*, *Ghillebrighde*, *Ghiobain*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

Gilbert came into English via Norman French from Germanic roots meaning "bright" and either "hostage" or "arrow shaft". *Gileabart* and *Gilleabart* are gaelicisations of this and *Gioban* a diminutive. *Gillebrighde* is a totally separate Gaelic name deemed equivalent to Gilbert because of similarities in sound but meaning "follower of Bridget". The patronymic *MacIllebrighde* is anglicised as MacBryde.

**Giles, Gillies** Gilliosa

(gen. *Ghilliosa*; voc. *a Ghilliosa*)

Giles is a French name derived from Latin and possibly meaning "shield". Gillies is an anglicisation of the Gaelic name *Gilliosa* meaning "follower of Jesus". Gillies and *Gilliosa* have been considered as Gaelic equivalents of Giles despite their having different derivations. The patronymic *MacIlliosa* is anglicised as Gillies, Lees and MacLeish.

**Godfrey** Goiridh, Goraidh

See **Geoffrey**.

**Gordon** Gòrdan

(gen. *Ghòrdain*; voc. *a Ghòrdain*)

This was originally a place-name in Berwickshire used as a surname and then adopted as a first name.

**Gregor, Gregory** Griogal, Griogar

(gen. *Ghriogail*, *Ghriogair*; voc. *a Ghriogail*, *a Ghriogair*)

These names originated in Greek and mean "alert" or "watchful". The patronymic *MacGriogair* is usually anglicised as MacGregor.

**Harold** Arailt, Earaild, Earailt, Harailt, Haral

(gen. & voc. *Arailt*, *Earaild*, *Earailt*, *Harailt*, *Harail*)

Harold is of both English and Norse origin, both meaning "military power". The Gaelic names probably came into being through contact with the Norse and none of them appear to have given rise to any patronymics. *Earaild* or *Earailt* is found in the Gaelic name of Muckairn churchyard in Argyll which is *Cladh an Easbaig Earaild*, "Bishop Harold's graveyard".

**Hector** Eachann, Eacharn

(gen. & voc. *Eachainn*, *Eachairn*)

Hector is based on the name of the Trojan horseman whose name is said to contain the Greek element for "restraint". *Eachann* or *Eacharn* is a Gaelic name meaning "horse lord". Although unrelated, *Eachann/Eacharn* was considered an equivalent of Hector because of the connection to horses. A diminutive form *Eachainnean* (gen. & voc. *Eachainnein*) was used in Wester Ross. The patronymic *MacEachainn* is anglicised as MacEachen and MacGeachen, whereas *Eacharn* has formed two patronymics, *MacEachairn* and *MacEacharna*, both of which are anglicised as MacEachern and MacKechnie whilst *MacEacharna* additionally became Cochrane in some instances in Argyll.

### **Heracles, Hercules** Iorcall

(gen. & voc. *Iorcaill*)

This is a Greek name meaning "pride of Hēra", referring to the Greek goddess. Hercules is a latinised version of the original Greek *Heracles*, of which *Iorcall* is a gaelicisation.

### **Hugh** Aodh, Eobhan, Eógan, Eoghain, Eoghainn, Eóghann, Eughan, Hùisdean, Ùisdean (gen. & voc. *Aoidh, Eobhain, Eógain, Eoghain, Eoghainn, Eóghainn, Eughain, Hùisdein, Ùisdein*)

Hugh entered English via a French version of a Germanic name containing the word for "mind", and the Gaelic names are unrelated but deemed equivalent to Hugh as well as to other names.

*Aodh* is a Gaelic name containing a term for "fire" and is normally anglicised as Hugh which was covered in Argyll, Perthshire and Stirlingshire by *Eobhan, Eóghann* and *Eughan*, in Moidart by *Eógan*, and in the north by *Hùisdean* and *Ùisdean*. *Eughan* is found in the Buchanan district of Stirlingshire whilst *Eobhan* is an old-fashioned spelling of *Eóghann* and together with *Eógan* is also anglicised as Euan, Evan or Ewan/Ewen. The origin of *Eóghann* and its variants is the Greek term for "well-born" or "noble". *Hùisdean* and *Ùisdean* have a Norse derivation meaning "eternal stone". *Aodh* forms the patronymic *MacAoidh* which is usually anglicised as **MacKay**, *MacEóghainn* is found as Ewing and **MacEwan**, while *MacÙisdein* becomes **Hutcheson**, MacCutcheon and Whiston.

### **Iain, Ian** Iain

(unchanged in gen. & voc.)

This name is originally from Hebrew, meaning "God is gracious" or "graced by God". It was originally *Seathan* in Gaelic (which still exists in the patronymic *MacIlleathain* or MacLean) which became *Eathan* and then developed into *Iain*. It is equivalent to John in English, *Jean* in French and *Seán* in Irish, and forms the patronymic *MacIain* which is anglicised as Johnstone and MacKean.

### **Isaac** Aodh, Ìosag

(gen. & voc. *Aoidh, Ìosaig*)

Isaac and *Ìosag* derive from Hebrew for "laughing" or "happy" and are equivalent to the modern Hebrew name *Yitzhak*. The unrelated name *Aodh* was anglicised as Isaac in north Sutherland, but see **Hugh**. *Ìosag* is part of the patronymic *MacÌosaig* which is anglicised as MacIsaac and MacKessack.

### **Ivor** Ìomhar

See **Edward**.

### **Jack** Seoc

(gen. *Sheoc*; voc. *a Sheoc*)

Although now a name in its own right, Jack was originally a diminutive of **John** and *Seoc* was a gaelicisation of the Scottish version of Jack, namely Jock.

### **James** Seumas, Siamas

(gen. *Sheumais, Shiamais*; voc. *a Sheumais, a Shiamais*)

James was originally the Hebrew name *Iacob* which came into English via Latin and French and means "follower" or "supplanter". *Seumas* is a gaelicisation of the name and pronounced as *Siamas* in Easter Ross and other eastern areas. Various diminutives equivalent to Jimmy were used, eg. *Seumachan, Seumag, Seumaidh, Seuman* (gen. *Sheumachain, Sheumaig, Sheumaidh, Sheumain*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms). *Seumag* and *Seuman* were used in Strathspey. *Seumas* is found in the patronymic *MacSheumais* which is anglicised as Jamieson and MacKemie.

### **Jock** Deòc, Seoc

(gen. *Dheòc, Sheoc*; voc. *a Dheòc, a Sheoc*)

Jock is an abbreviation of **John**, and *Deòc* which was used in Arran and *Seoc* more widely were gaelicisations of it. Further diminutive forms were used such as *Deòcan* in Arran, *Seocaidh* and *Seocan* (gen. *Dheòcain, Sheocaidh, Sheocain*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms). *Deòcan* was used in Arran.

### **John** Eathan, Eòin, Iain, Seathan, Seon

(gen. *Eathain, Eòin, Iain, Sheathain, Sheoin*; voc. *Eathain, Eòin, Iain, a Sheathain, a Sheoin*)

John is originally from Hebrew via Greek and Latin, meaning "God is gracious" or "graced by God", and is found in a variety of forms in many cultures throughout the world. The name came into Gaelic as *Seathan* which developed into *Eathan* then *Iain*. *Eòin* is also derived from Hebrew but entered Gaelic perhaps directly from Greek and is also considered as a Gaelic equivalent of Jonathan. *Seon* is a gaelicisation of John. Johnny is a diminutive of **John**, and *Seonachan* and *Seonaidh* (gen. *Sheonachain, Sheonaidh*; voc. *a Sheonachain, a Sheonaidh*) are gaelicisations of it. *Iagan* (gen. & voc. *Iagain*) is different and is a name in its own right without an English equivalent as well as being a diminutive of *Iain*. The patronymic *MacIain* is translated as Johnston and anglicised as MacKean while *Eathan/Seathan* is still found in the patronymics *MacIlleathain*, *MacLean*, and *MacIllesheathain*, *MacCheyne*.

### **Jonathan** Eòin, Ionatan, Seonachan

(gen. *Eòin, Ionatain, Sheonachain*; voc. *Eòin, Ionatain, a Sheonachain*)

Jonathan is from a Hebrew source meaning "God has given" of which *Ionatan* and *Seonachan* are gaelicisations, *Seonachan* also acts as a Gaelic diminutive of John. For *Eòin* see **John**.

### **Joseph** Eòsaph, Seosamh

(gen. *Eòsaiph, Sheosaimh*; voc. *Eòsaiph, a Sheosaimh*)

The meaning of this Hebrew name is unclear as it can be understood to mean both "take away" and also "add". The Gaelic names are gaelicisations and a diminutive form *Eòsag* (gen. & voc. *Eòsaig*) is the equivalent of Joe.

### **Kenneth** Coinneach

(gen. *Choinnich*; voc. *a Choinnich*)

Kenneth derives from a Gaelic name *Cionadh*, possibly meaning "born of fire", which fell out of use with *Coinneach* replacing it. The patronymic *MacCionadha* which was most common in the south-west of the country was anglicised as MacKenna and MacKinnie. *Coinneach* apparently means "fair one", and in Wester Ross two different diminutives of it were used, *Cadhan* and *Céineag* (gen. *Chadhain, Chéineig*; voc. *a Chadhain, a Chéineig*). These are equivalent to Kenny in English. *Coinneach* forms the patronymic *MacCoinnich* which is usually anglicised as MacKenzie but also as Kynoch. An older form of the patronymic, *MacCoinnigh* or *MacChoinnigh*, was anglicised in Galloway as MacWhinnie.

### **Kevin** Caomhan

(gen. *Chaomhain*; voc. *a Chaomhain*)

This Gaelic name means "kind one" or "gentle one" and appears not to have formed any patronymics.

### **Kieran** Ciaran

(gen. *Chiarain*; voc. *a Chiarain*)

"Dark one" from Gaelic. *Ciaran* has formed a patronymic as *MacCiarain*, MacKerron, and another



in the form of *MacIllechiarain*, "the son of the follower of saint Ciaran/Kieran", which is anglicised as MacIlherran, MacKerron and Sharpe, the last because rather than *Ciaran* deriving from *ciar*, "dark", it was thought by some to have originated in *geur*, "sharp".

**Lachlan** Lachann, Lachlann

(gen. *Lachainn*, *Lachlainn*; voc. *a Lachainn*, *a Lachlainn*)

This name is connected to the Gaelic name of Scandinavia which is *Lochlann*. *Lachann* was more common in Argyll and associated with the MacLeans. A diminutive form *Lachaidh* (unchanged in gen. & preceded by *a* in voc.) is common everywhere. *Lachann* and *Lachlann* form the patronymics *MacLachainn* and *MacLachlainn* which are anglicised as MacLachlan and MacLauchlan.

**Lawrence** Labhrann

(gen. *Labhrainn*; voc. *a Labhrainn*)

Lawrence came into English from French but ultimately has a Greek origin meaning "bright" or "shining". *Labhrann* is a gaelicisation of the same name and is found in the patronymic *MacLabhrainn*, anglicised as MacLaren.

**Lewis** Liuthais, Luthais

(gen. *Liuthais*, *Luthais*; voc. *a Liuthais*, *a Luthais*)

These names are an anglicisation and gaelicisations of French *Louis* which had a Frankish origin in *Chlodowig* meaning "famed in battle". Neither Gaelic form is found in any patronymic. *Liuthais* or *Luthais* are also considered equivalents to Ludovic.

**Ludovic** Liuthais, Luthais, Maoldòmhnaich

(gen. *Liuthais*, *Luthais*, *Mhaoldòmhnaich*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

Ludovic is from the same source as **Lewis** but directly from Frankish minus the French connection. *Liuthais* was a popular name among the Grants and is also anglicised as Lewis. *Maoldòmhnaich*, "the devotee of the lord", was a name often given to foundlings and forms the patronymic found mainly in the Inverness area, *MacMhaoldòmhnaich*, which is anglicised as MacIlldownie.

**Lucas, Luke** Lùcas

(gen. *Lùcais*; voc. *a Lùcais*)

These names have a Latin origin and mean "bright" or "born at dawn". *Lùcas* forms the patronymic *MacLùcais* which is anglicised in many forms such as MacLugash also falling together with Douglas and MacDougall.

**Magnus** Mànas

(gen. *Mhànaid*; voc. *a Mhànaid*)

This is a Norse name of Latin origin meaning "great". The patronymic *MacMhànaid* is anglicised as MacManus and MacVanish.

**Malcolm** Calum, Maolchaluim

(gen. *Chaluim*, *Mhaolchaluim*; voc. *a Chaluim*, *a Mhaolchaluim*)

Malcolm is an anglicisation of *Maolchaluim*, "the devotee of saint Columba", a development of *Calum* which means "dove" and also considered as an equivalent of Malcolm. St Columba was *Calum Cille*, "dove of the church", in Gaelic.

**Mark** Marcas

(gen. *Mharcais*; voc. *a Mharcais*)

This name of Latin origin means "belonging to Mars" or "warlike". The Argyll patronymic

*MacMharcais* is anglicised as Marquis.

**Martin** Màrtainn

(gen. *Mhàrtainn*; voc. *a Mhàrtainn*)

Martin derives from the same Latin source as **Mark**. *Màrtainn* is also used as a surname and forms the patronymics *MacIllemhàrtainn* and *MacMhàrtainn*, anglicised as MacMartin and Martin.

**Matthew** Mata, Matha

(gen. *Mhata*, *Mhatha*; voc. *a Mhata*, *a Mhatha*)

Matthew and *Mata* are of Hebrew origin via Greek and mean "gift of God". However, *Matha* may be of Gaelic origin and connected to the word for "bear". The patronymic *MacMhatha* is anglicised as Matheson and was found in Kintyre and Perthshire.

**Michael** Mìcheal, Micheil

(gen. *Mhìcheil*, *Mhìcheil*; voc. *a Mhìcheil*, *a Mhìcheil*)

This is of Hebrew origin meaning "Who is like God?". The patronymic *MacMhìcheil* is anglicised as MacMichael, while *MacIllemhìcheil*, "son of the follower of saint Michael", is usually rendered in English as Carmichael, an existing surname derived from a Brythonic place-name in Lanarkshire,

**Mungo** Mungan

(gen. *Mhungain*; voc. *a Mhungain*)

Mungo is probably derived from a Brythonic pet name for St Kentigern meaning "My dear one", and appears not to have formed any patronymics.

**Murdo** Murchadh

(gen. *Mhurchaidh*; voc. *a Mhurchaidh*)

Murdo is a shortened form of **Murdoch** and considered nowadays to be the English equivalent of *Murchadh* which means "sea warrior" from Old Gaelic. *MacMhurchaidh* is anglicised in a number of ways ranging from MacMurchie to Murdoch and Murphy.

**Murdoch** Muireach, Muireadhach, Murchadh

(gen. *Mhuirich*, *Mhuireadhaich*, *Mhurchaidh*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

Murdoch in English represents the three Gaelic names above although *Muireach* is a simplified spelling of *Muireadhach* and is the same name, meaning "lord". The patronymic *MacMhuirich* is anglicised in a range of ways from Currie to MacVurich and Murray. For *Murchadh* see **Murdo**.

**Myles** Maoileas, Maoilios, Maolìosa, Maolmhoire

(gen. *Mhaoileis*, *Mhaoilis*, *Mhaolìosa*, *Mhaolmhoire*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

Although Myles is said to be of Latin origin meaning "soldier", in a Scottish and Irish context it is also an anglicisation of *Maolìosa*, "devotee of Jesus", which is simplified as *Maoileas* and *Maoilios*. *MacMhaolìosa* is anglicised as Mellis and Mellish, but may have been subsumed with *MacIllìosa* which is generally anglicised as Gillies. *Maolmhoire*, "devotee of Mary", is also anglicised as Myles despite being a different name.

**Naughton, Nechtan** Neachdan

(gen. *Neachdain*; voc. *a Neachdain*)

This name is said to be of Pictish origin carrying connotations of purity or cleanliness. The patronymic *MacNeachdain* is anglicised as MacCracken and MacNaughton.

**Neil** Niall

(gen. *Nèill, Nill*; voc. *a Nèill, a Nill*)

This Gaelic name is said to mean "champion" and forms the patronymic *MacNéill* (or *MacNill* in South Uist) which is anglicised as MacNeil and Neilson as well as MacRaild which can also be an anglicisation of *MacRaghnaill*. The gen. & voc. forms *Nill* and *a Nill* are used in South Uist.

### **Nicholas, Nicol** Neacal

(gen. *Neacail*; voc. *a Neacail*)

Nicholas is of Greek origin and means "victory of the people", while Nicol is an anglicisation of *Neacal* which comes from the same source. *MacNeacail* is anglicised as MacNicol and Nicolson.

### **Nigel** Niall

See **Neil**.

### **Ninian** Rinnean, Truinnean

(gen. *Rinnein, Thruinnein*; voc. *a Rinnein, a Thruinnein*)

Watson (1986) thought this name might be of Brythonic origin and it is closely associated with St Ninian of Whithorn. In Gaelic and Scots when the name was preceded by "Saint" the initial *N* often changed to *R* and even *Tr*, which gave rise to names such as Ringan and Saint Trinian. Alternatively, Clancy (2001) thinks that the initial *N* may have come about through a misreading of *U* and that Ninian and Winning are one and the same.

### **Norman** Tormailt, Tormod, Tormoid

(gen. *Thormailt, Thormoid, Thormoid*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

Norman is a Norse name meaning "Norseman" or "Norwegian" and the Gaelic names are variants substituting *t* or *d* for the *n* of the original Norse name. These names appear not to have formed any patronymics.

### **Olaf** Olla, Ollamh

(gen. & voc. *Olla, Ollaimh*)

These names stem from Norse *Ólafr* which contains connotations of heirloom and ancestry. Despite the existence of the forms *Olla* and *Ollamh*, *Ólafr* was usually gaelicised as *Amhlaigh* but *Olla* is found in *Dùn Olla*, "Olaf's fort", the original name of Dunollie near Oban. See **Aulay**.

### **Oliver** Oilbheis

(unchanged in gen. & voc.)

Oliver is said to be from a French variant of a Germanic name meaning "elf warrior", but could as likely be from Latin, meaning "olive tree planter or farmer", which seems to be the origin of *Oilbheis*.

### **Oscar** Osgar

(gen. & voc. *Osgair*)

This name may mean "friend of deer" from Gaelic but there is debate as to whether it may originally have been a Norse name meaning "spear of God" despite the fact that the Ossianic tales predate the Norse invasions.

### **Oswald** Asaild

(gen. & voc. *Asaild*)

This Old English name suggests "divine power" or from *ōs* and *weald* and was common among. The Gaelicised form is found in the mediaeval name *Gille Asaild* which means the "follower of Asaild or Oswald", and would nowadays be written as *Gillasaild*.

**Owen** Eobhan, Eoghan, Eoghainn, Eóghann, Eòin  
See **Euan** and **John**.

**Patrick** Pàdraig, Pàraig

(gen. *Phàdraig, Phàraig*; voc. *a Phàdraig, a Phàraig*)

This name can be traced to Latin meaning "nobleman". The patronymic *MacPhàdraig* is anglicised as MacPhatrick and Paterson. Several Gaelic diminutives, equivalent to Paddy or Pat, are used, eg. *Paid, Paidean, Pàidean, Para* (gen. *Phaid, Phaidein, Phàidein, Phara*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms), some of which have been considered as names in their own right and have formed patronymics such as *MacPhaid* giving Faed and MacFeat in English and *MacPhaidein* or *MacPhàidein*, anglicised as MacFadyen or MacFadzean.

**Paul** Pàl, Pòl

(gen. *Phàil, Phòil*; voc. *a Phàil, a Phòil*)

This name comes from Latin meaning "small" or "humble". *Pàl* is an older form of the name and forms the patronymic *MacPhàil* which is anglicised as MacFall and MacPhail, whereas *Pòl* is a newer form of the name and in the patronymic *MacPhòil* gives Polson in English, a name linked to Wester Ross.

**Peter** Pàdair, Pàdraig, Pàraig, Peadar

(gen. *Phàdair, Phàdraig, Phàraig, Pheadair*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

Peter, *Pàdair* and *Peadar* come from Greek *petros* meaning "rock". *Pàdair* was used in Arran and *Peadar* elsewhere. *MacPhàdair* and *MacPheadair* are both anglicised as MacFater, MacPhater and Peters. Diminutives *Peadaran* and *Peidearan* (gen. *Pheadarain, Peidearain*; voc. *a Pheadarain, a Pheidearain*) form the patronymics *MacPheadarain* which becomes anglicised as MacPhedran and *MacPheidearain* which also becomes MacPhedran but which in the Glencoe area was anglicised as Fletcher. Although from a different source, *Pàdraig* or *Pàraig* are often used as Gaelic equivalents of Peter, but see **Patrick**.

**Petrus** Peadras

(gen. *Pheadrais*; voc. *a Pheadrais*)

This is from the same source as **Peter** and as a patronymic *MacPheadrais* is anglicised as Fetridge and MacFetridge.

**Philip** Filib

(gen. & voc. *Fhilib*)

This was originally a Greek name meaning "fond of horses", and the Gaelic patronymic *MacFhilib* is anglicised as MacGilp and MacKillop.

**Quentin** Caointean

(gen. *Chaoitein*; voc. *a Chaoitein*)

Quentin stems from Latin meaning "fifth". Although *Caointean* is considered equivalent to Quentin it is from a Gaelic source meaning "kind", however it can also be argued that the name means "woeful".

**Ranald** Raghalt, Raghnaill, Raghnaillt

(gen. *Raghailt, Raghnaill, Raghnaillt*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

This name is of Norse origin containing the elements "decision" and "ruler" and was adopted into Gaelic and thence into English. The name was also rendered as *Reginaldus* in Latin, which led to

the English name Reginald. *Raghalt* was used in Wester Ross and *Raghnallt* in north Sutherland. The patronymic *MacRaghnaill* is anglicised as MacCrindle and MacRaild although the latter can also be an anglicisation of *MacNéill* due to the fact that in Gaelic *cn* is regularly pronounced as *cr*.

**Reginald** Raghalt, Raghnall, Raghnallt  
See **Ranald**.

**Richard** Riocard, Riseard, Ruiseart  
(gen. *Riocairst*, *Riseird*, *Ruiseirt*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)  
This name is of Germanic origin meaning "strong leader". The Gaelic names are slightly different in that *Riocard* is probably older and adopted into Gaelic directly from Germanic whereas *Riseard* and *Ruiseart* are probably gaelicisations of the English or French forms of the name.

**Ringan**, Rinnean, Truinnean.  
See **Ninian**.

**Robert** Raibeart, Reabart, Rob  
(gen. *Raibeirt*, *Rob*; voc. *a Raibeirt*, *a Rob*)  
Robert is a Germanic name formed by elements meaning "famous" and "bright", and *Raibeart*, *Reabart* and *Rob* are gaelicised equivalents. *Raibeart* and *Rob* are found throughout the country but *Reabart* was apparently confined to the Inverness area. The patronymic *MacRaibeirt* is anglicised as MacRobert while *MacRob* becomes MacRobb. Additionally, a diminutive form *Robaidh* (gen. *Robaidh*; voc. *a Robaidh*) gives the patronymic *MacRobaidh* which is found as MacRobbie in the eastern Highlands, an example of a Scots personal name adopted by Gaelic speakers in areas close to the linguistic boundary between the two language communities. Further away from these areas, the diminutive *Boban* (gen. *Bhobain*; voc. *a Bhobain*) represented "Bobby".

**Roddy, Roderick** Ruairidh, Ruaraidh  
(gen. *Ruairidh*, *Ruaraidh*; voc. *a Ruairidh*, *a Ruaraidh*)  
Roderick is a Germanic name containing the elements for "glory" and "ruler", and Roddy is a diminutive. *Ruairidh/Ruaraidh* is an unrelated equivalent to Roderick and is a Gaelic name meaning "red-haired king" which forms the patronymic *MacRuairidh/MacRuaraidh*, anglicised as MacRory and MacRury.

**Ronald** Raghalt, Raghnall, Raghnallt  
See **Ranald**.

**Ronan** Rònan.  
(gen. *Rònain*; voc. *a Rònain*)  
This Gaelic name is "little seal", from *ròn* + *an*, and appears not to have formed any patronymics.

**Rory** Ruairidh, Ruaraidh  
See **Roddy**.

**Samuel** Somhairle  
(gen. *Shomhairle*; voc. *a Shomhairle*)  
Samuel was originally a Hebrew name meaning "God has heard" or "name of God". *Somhairle* is unrelated in meaning but considered to be a Gaelic equivalent of it despite being from Norse *Sumarliðr* and meaning "summer traveller" or "summer warrior". It is also anglicised as Somerled and Sorley. The patronymic *MacShomhairle* is anglicised as MacCurley and MacSorley.

**Sandy** Sandag, Sandaidh, Sanndaidh, Sanndan  
See **Alexander**.

**Simon** Sim, Simidh

(gen. *Shìm, Shimidh*; voc. *a Shìm, a Shimidh*)

Simon is a name of Hebrew origin meaning "listen". These names were especially popular with people called Fraser and *Mac Shimidh* is the Gaelic title of Lord Lovat, the chief of the Frasers. As surnames *MacShìm* is anglicised as MacKim while *MacShimidh* becomes Jamieson, MacKimmie and Sim.

**Solomon** Solamh, Solla

(gen. *Sholaimh, Sholla*; voc. *a Sholaimh, a Sholla*)

This Hebrew name is "man of peace" with *Solamh* and *Solla* being gaelicisations of the original.

**Somerled, Sorley** Somhairle

See **Samuel**.

**Theobald** Tiobaid

(gen. *Thiobaid*; voc. *a Thiobaid*)

This is a Germanic name containing "people" and "bold" and *Tiobaid* is an gaelicisation of that with Gaelic using *F* as an approximation of English *Th*. This name does not appear to have formed any patronymics.

**Theodore** Feadair

(gen. & voc. *Fheadair*)

Theodore is a Greek name meaning "God given" and *Feadair* is the same name gaelicised. There is no Gaelic patronymic formed from this.

**Thomas** Tàmas, Tàmhas, Tòmas, Tómas, Tòmhas

(gen. *Thàmais, Thàmhas, Thòmais, Thómais, Thòmhas*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

This name in English and Gaelic forms is from an Aramaic name meaning "twin" or "lookalike".

Diminutive Gaelic forms were used, such as *Tom, Tòmachan, Tòmag* and *Tomaidh* (gen. *Thom, Thòmachain, Thòmaig, Thomaidh*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms). The Gaelic names have given rise to several patronymics such as the Bute name *MacThàmais* which becomes MacCavish, *MacThàmhas* which is anglicised as MacCavish, MacTavish and Tawse, *MacThom* in Galloway and Carrick which developed into Combe, MacComb and Thom and *MacThómais* which is anglicised as MacThomas and Thomson. *MacThomaidh* developed into *Mac a' Chombaich* which is anglicised as MacCombie and even Colquhoun. The commemorative name *Gillethòmhais*, "follower of saint Thomas", formed the patronymic *MacIllethòmhais* which is anglicised as Hosier, MacLehose and Mucklehose.

**Torquil** Torcall, Torcuil

(gen. *Thorcaill, Thorcuil*; voc. *a Thorcaill, a Thorcuil*)

This is a simplified version of *Thorkettil*, Norse name containing the elements "Thor" and "cauldron" which was adopted into Gaelic then anglicised as Torquil. The patronymic *MacThorcaill* is anglicised as MacCorkill, but more common is the related name MacCorquodale from *MacThorcadail* or *MacCorcadail*, based on the first name *Torcadal* which is more clearly derived from *Thorkettil*.

**Valentine Ualan**

(gen. & voc. *Ualain*)

Valentine is a Latin name meaning "strong" or "healthy", of which *Ualan* appears to be a gaelicisation and a name associated with the Chisholms of Strathglass.

**Walter Bhaltair, Bhàtar**

(gen. *Bhaltair*; *Bhàtair*; voc. *a Bhaltair*; *a Bhàtair*)

Walter is a Germanic name containing the words "forest" and "warrior". The Gaelic names are a gaelicisation of that and *Bhàtar* is the basis of the patronymic *MacBhàtair* which is anglicised as Watson. A diminutive form *Bàididh* is a gaelicisation of Wattie and forms the patronymic *MacBhàididh* or **MacWattie**.

**William Uilleam**

(gen. & voc. *Uilleim*).

William is a Norman French version of the Germanic name composed of the words "will" and "helmet" or "protection". *Uilleam* is a gaelicisation of that and forms the patronymic *MacUilleim* which is anglicised as MacWilliam, Williamson and Wilson. The diminutive *Uilleachan* (gen. & voc. *Uilleachain*) was quite commonly used.

**Zachary Sachairi, Sgàire**

(gen. *Sgàire*; voc. *a Sgàire*)

The Hebrew name Zachary or Zachariah which is "God remembers" is used as an equivalent in English to *Sgàire*, a name used mainly in the Uig and Bernera areas of Lewis and of unclear origin. *Sgàire* may be from Norse and may at first have been a nickname, although there is an old church at Bragar in Lewis named *Cill Sgàire*. *Sachairi* is a gaelicisation of the Hebrew name.

### Section 3

#### Surnames - English to Gaelic

Where a name is mentioned in the text in **bold** the reader is referred to the entry under that name for further information.

Since many of the surnames below beginning with "Mac" are patronymics such as "MacArthur" and "MacDonald", the first names forming the patronymic are not explained here but in Section 2 above. It is worth remembering that female surnames can differ in form from male surnames as explained in the Introduction. All patronymics in their anglicised form are written and listed as "Mac" rather than "Mc" or "M" although these two variants are well established and perfectly valid.

The Gaelic names below feature many such as *MacIlliosa* which contain the word *gille* meaning "follower" or "boy/one". These surnames can also be spelled *MacGhilliosa* or *MacGilliosa* although these are now less common but still valid ways to spell the names.

**Abbot, Abbotson** Mac an Aba  
See **MacNab**.

**Abercrombie** Mac an t-Saoir  
(gen. *Mhic an t-Saoir*; voc. *a Mhic an t-Saoir*)  
Abercrombie is a place-name used as a surname, and is an anglicisation of the Gaelic name *Obar Chrombaidh*, "crooked river-mouth". In Deeside people called *Mac an t-Saoir*, "son of the carpenter", were given the name Abercrombie in English despite the names being totally unrelated. Elsewhere *Mac an t-Saoir* cannot be considered an equivalent of Abercrombie as it is usually anglicised as **Macintyre**.

**Achnach** Eachannach, Eachnach  
(gen. & voc. *Eachannaich, Eachnaich*)  
This name, associated with Aberdeenshire, Banffshire and Moray, originated as an adjectival equivalent to *MacEachainn*, "son of Eachann/Hector", in the same way that *Dòmhnallach* is an adjectival equivalent to *MacDhòmhnaill*, "MacDonald".

**Adam, Adamson** MacÀdhaimh  
See **MacAdam**.

**Agnew** Mac a' Ghnìomhaid  
(gen. *Mhic a' Ghnìomhaid*; voc. *a Mhic a' Ghnìomhaid*)  
This name comes from the area of Agneaux in Normandy and became associated with Galloway through Norman settlement there. Additionally, families of Irish origin called *Ó Gnímh* or O'Gneeve, a name based on "deed", also settled in the area and adopted Agnew as their name due to its auditory similarity, thus increasing the incidence of the name in the south-west. *Mac a' Ghnìomhaid* appears to be a scotticised version of *Ó Gnímh*.

**Alexander** MacAlasdair  
See **MacAllister**.

**Allan** Aileanach, MacAilein  
(gen. *Aileanaich, MhicAilein*; voc. *Aileanaich, a MhicAilein*)



The first Gaelic name was found in Wester Ross and is an adjectival variant to *MacAilein* which is "son of Ailean/Alan".

**Allanach** Aileanach

(gen. & voc. *Aileanaich*)

This name was found mainly in Mar and Strathdon and is an adjectival equivalent to *MacAilein* which is "son of Ailean/Alan".

**Allanson** MacAilein

(gen. *MhicAilein*; voc. *a MhicAilein*)

"Son of Ailean/Alan". This name was found largely among Clan Ranald, whose chief is known by the title *Mac Mhic Ailein*, "the son of the son of Alan".

**Alpine** MacAilpein

See **MacAlpine**.

**Anderson** Ambarsan, Annasdan, Anndrasdan, MacIllanndrais

(gen. & voc. *Ambarsain*, *Annasdain*, *Anndrasdain*; gen. *MhicIllAnnrais*; voc. *a MhicIllanndrais*)

"Son of Anndrais/Andrew". *Ambarsan* is found mainly in Sleat with *Annasdan* in other parts of Skye. These two names together with *Anndrasdan* are gaelicised versions of the English name Anderson. *MacIllanndrais*, "son of the follower of saint Andrew", is common in other areas and is anglicised as Anderson and Gillanders.

**Andie** MacAnndaidh, MacShanndaidh

See **MacAndie**.

**Andrew** MacAnndra

See **MacAndrew**.

**Angus, Angusson** MacAonghais

See **MacInnes**.

**Archibald** MacIlleasbaig

(gen. *MhicIlleasbaig*; voc. *a MhicIlleasbaig*)

See **Archibald** in Section 2. *MacIlleasbaig*, "son of the follower of the bishop", is also anglicised as Gillespie and Espie.

**Arthur** MacArtair

See **MacArthur**.

**Auld** MacCathail

(gen. *MhicCathail*; voc. *a MhicCathail*)

Auld is an anglicisation of the Gaelic name showing a number of features regularly found in the process of anglicisation. It was common for *Mac* to be dropped from surnames and in this case the initial *C* of *Cathal* was presumably thought to be the final *c* of *Mac*. The process of adding "d" to the final "l" is not uncommon and is found in the change from *Dòmhnall* to "Donald". *MacCathail*, "son of Cathal", was mainly found in Bute and is also anglicised as Cail, MacCail and MacCall.

**Badenoch** Bàideanach

(gen. *Bhàideanaich*; voc. *a Bhàideanaich*)

This is a place-name used as a surname which is a fairly rare occurrence in Gaelic, however the word *Bàideanach* denotes not only the name of the district but also a native of the area.

**Baillie** Mac a' Bhàillidh

(gen. *Mhic a' Bhàillidh*; voc. *a Mhic a' Bhàillidh*)

This Gaelic name is an example of a name gaelicised from the English original, and represents the occupation of a baillie or local government officer.

**Bain** Bànach, MacIllebhàin

(gen. *Bhànaich, MhicIllebhàin*; voc. *a Bhànaich, a MhicIllebhàin*)

The adjective *bàn*, "fair-haired", is the basis for these names. *Bànach* is mainly associated with Wester Ross and could be translated as "Bain person" whereas *MacIllebhàin* is formed similarly to many other names in which *gille*, "boy" or "one", has an adjective such as *bàn* added to give a descriptive surname, in this case "son of the fair-haired one". Bain shows an interesting feature in that "ai" was used in older Scots orthography to denote a long "a", equivalent to Gaelic *à*. Over time the pronunciation in Scots changed from /a:/ to /e/ which often can conceal the Gaelic origin of names used in modern Scots and Scottish English.

**Baird** Mac a' Bhàird

(gen. *Mhic a' Bhàird*; voc. *a Mhic a' Bhàird*)

Baird is an anglicisation of the Gaelic name which is "son of the poet" and also anglicised as Ward. See **MacNeillie**.

**Bannatyne** MacAomalain, MacCiomalain, MacEamailinn

(gen. *MhicAomalain, MhicCiomalain, MhicEamailinn*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

Bannatyne comes from a place-name recorded as "Bennachtain" which may have been in east Perthshire. It is unrelated to the Gaelic name which now has a number of written forms and is associated mainly with Bute and Arran being "son of Eamilinn or Aomalan" which may be related to *Amhalghaidh* and thence to the non-Norse Aulay as found in southern names. Bannatyne of that Ilk and Bannatyne of Kames are both simply *MacEamailinn*.

**Bannerman** Mac Ille na Brataich

(gen. *Mhic Ille na Brataich*; voc. *a Mhic Ille na Brataich*)

The English and Gaelic names mean approximately the same as each other, the Gaelic being "son of the flag-bearer".

**Barron** Baran

(gen. *Bharain*; voc. *a Bharanaich*).

This name, especially in its Gaelic form, is associated with east Inverness-shire and means a baron or landowner. The Frasers of Reelick or Reelig near Beaulieu were known as *Clann a' Bharain*, "offspring of the baron".

**Bartholomew** MacPhàrlain

See **MacFarlane**.

**Baxter** Bacastair, Mac a' Bhacastair

(gen. *Bhacastair, Mhic a' Bhacastair*; voc. *a Bhacastair, a Mhic a' Bhacastair*)

Baxter designates a baker in Scots and the Gaelic names are gaelicisations of that. The first Gaelic name was used throughout Argyll while the second seems to have been restricted to Glen Shira.

**Bayne** MacIllebhàin  
See **Bain**.

**Beaton** Beitean, Mac an Léigh, MacBeatha, Peutan

(gen. *Bheitein*, *Mhic an Léigh*, *MhicBeatha*, *Pheutain*; voc. *a Bheiteanaich*, *a Mhic an Léigh*, *a MhicBeatha*, *a Pheutanaich*)

Bethune is the name of a town near Calais in France which developed into Beaton, a name associated with Fife. However Beaton was the name given to hereditary Gaelic physicians which accounts for Beatons in Islay being called *Mac an Léigh*, "son of the physician". *MacBeatha*, also anglicised as MacBeth and meaning "son of life", was the name of another family of physicians whose name merged with that of the Beatons. Although *Peutan* is nowadays the usual Gaelic form of Beaton, the name was *Beitean* in Ross-shire. See also **Leitch**.

**Begg**

This name is based on Gaelic *beag*, "small", and possibly began as a nickname. It is interesting that this name never developed into a surname in Gaelic along the lines of **Bain** or **Dunn** which are also based on Gaelic adjectives. If the nickname *Beag* had developed into a Gaelic surname, it would probably have become *MacIllebhig*, although no such name is recorded.

**Bell** MacIllemhaoil

(gen. *MhicIllemhaoil*; voc. *a MhicIllemhaoil*)

A number of sources can be attributed to the surname Bell, varying from French *bel* meaning "beautiful" via a matronymic based on "Isobel" to the Swiss town of Biel. In Islay and Kintyre, Bell is an anglicisation of *MacIllemhaoil*, "son of the follower of the monk", which usually becomes MacMillan. In Islay the Bells are called *Na Beilich*. This anglicisation from *MacIllemhaoil* to Bell probably came about through a misunderstanding in which the *mhaoil* part of the Gaelic name was thought to be *bhaoil* which would sound the same but suggest a base form beginning with "b". There is also a story of a MacMillan man marrying a woman called Bell and adopting her surname which may or may not be fanciful.

**Bethune** Beitean, MacBeatha, Peutan

See **Beaton**.

**Bezack, Bisset** Buiseid

(gen. *Bhuiseid*; voc. *a Bhuiseidich*)

Bisset is said to have been imported from England but possibly originated in France, and spread through southern and north-eastern parts of the country. The name developed into Bezack in Moray. *Buiseid* is a long-established gaelicisation and is associated with the north-eastern Highlands.

**Birnie**

In a north-east setting this name refers to a place near Elgin and is unrelated to Burnie, MacBirnie and MacBurnie. However, outwith the north-east this might simply be another spelling of **Burnie**.

**Black** Blacach, MacIlledhuibh

(gen. *Bhlacaich*, *MhicIlledhuibh*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

Black is a descriptive adjective and may also be a form of "blake" (or "man"). *Blacach* is simply a gaelicisation of Black, but *MacIlledhuibh* is a Gaelic name meaning "son of the black(-haired) one" which is also anglicised in Perthshire as Dow and Dowie and in Argyll as Huie. The Dows of Dull in Perthshire were known as *na Cailmnich* but this name is unclear.

### **Blackie** Blacach

(gen. *Bhlacaich*; voc. *a Bhlacaich*)

This is a diminutive form of **Black** and *Blacach* is a gaelicisation of it.

### **Blain, Blane** MacBhlàthain, MacIllebhhlàthain

(gen. *MhicBhlàthain, MhicIllebhhlàthain*; voc. *a MhicBhlàthain, a MhicIllebhhlàthain*)

The English forms are anglicisations of the Gaelic names which contain the first name *Blàthan*, a saint commemorated in Dunblane whose name has its origin in Gaelic *blàth* meaning "warm" or possibly "bloom". The second Gaelic name is "son of the follower of saint Blàthan/Blane" which confirms the close association of the name with sainthood.

### **Blair** Blàr, Blàrach

(gen. *Bhlàir, Bhlàraich*; voc. *a Bhlàraich, a Bhlàraich*)

Blair and *Blàr* refer to a place-name although it is unclear which one given the number of places featuring this element which means "field" or "plain". *Blàrach* is an adjectival name meaning "a person from Blair".

### **Blue** MacIlleghuirm

(gen. *MhicIlleghuirm*; voc. *a MhicIlleghuirm*)

Blue was found mainly in Argyll and Arran and is a translation of the Gaelic name which is "son of the blue one" although *gorm* can have an additional meaning of "naive" or "unsophisticated".

### **Bowie** Buidheach, MacIllebhuidhe

(gen. *Bhuidhich, MhicIllebhuidhe*; voc. *a Bhuidhich, a MhicIllebhuidhe*)

*Buidhe* is Gaelic for "yellow(-haired)" and also "lucky". *Buidheach* is an adjective based on *buidhe* and means "a Bowie person" while *MacIllebhuidhe* is "son of the yellow(-haired) one". Both are also anglicised as Buie.

### **Boyd** Bòid, Bòideach

(gen. *Bhòid, Bhòidich*; voc. *a Bhòidich, a Bhòidich*)

*Bòid* is the name of the island of Bute and a *Bòideach* is a Bute person.

### **Braden** MacBhradain

(gen. *MhicBhradain*; voc. *a MhicBhradain*)

This Argyll name is "son of Bradan" which means "salmon" from which *Mac* has been lost in the anglicised form. Although this name may appear strange, several first names are based on the names of animals such as *Faolan* from *faol*, "wolf".

### **Bradley** O Brolchain

(unchanged in gen. & voc.)

The English name comes from the name of a place near Hawick and is unrelated to the Gaelic name which is "desendant of Brolchan", a personal name with associations to the chest or breast which is a diminutive of *Brólach* and was quite common in the northern half of Ireland. *O Brolchain* is associated with Kintyre and is also anglicised as Brolochan and Brodie although people with the latter name might derive it from the village of Brodie in Moray.

### **Braithnoch, Bratney, Bratnie, Bretnoch** Mac a' Bhreatannaich

(gen. *Mhic a' Bhreatannaich*; voc. *a Mhic a' Bhreatannaich*)

The English forms are anglicisations minus *Mac* of the Gaelic name which is "son of the Briton", referring to a Briton of Strathclyde or even further south. *Mac a' Bhreatannaich* is also anglicised as

Calbraith or Galbraith which includes the Gaelic word *gall* meaning "foreigner", giving a meaning of "British foreigner". The Galbraiths generally are known as *Clann a' Bhreatannaich*, "offspring of the Briton", but in Gigha as *Clann Bhreatann*, "offspring of Britons".

### **Brewster** Mac a' Ghrùdair

(gen. *Mhic a' Ghrùdair*; voc. *a Mhic a' Ghrùdair*)

These names are transmutations of each other and indicate a brewer. *Mac a' Ghrùdair* is also anglicised as Gruer and MacGruther.

### **Brodie, Brolochan** O Brolchain

See **Bradley**.

### **Brown** Brùn, Mac a' Bhriuthainn, MacIlledhuinn, MacMhaolduinn

(gen. *Bhrùin*, *Mhic a' Bhriuthainn*, *MhicIlledhuinn*, *MhicMhaolduinn*; voc. *a Bhrùnaich*, *a Mhic a' Bhriuthainn*, *a MhicIlledhuinn*, *a MhicMhaolduinn*)

Brown is a simple descriptive adjective and *Brùn*, which is found in Islay as well as Tiree where the Browns are called *Na Brùnaich*, is a gaelicisation of that name in its Scots pronunciation. *Mac a' Bhriuthainn*, "son of the judge" from *britheamhan*, an old genitive form of *britheamh*, "judge", is associated with Argyll and also anglicised as MacBrayne. *MacIlledhuinn* is not restricted to any particular area, means "son of the brown(-haired) one" and may now be the form used, particularly in Argyll, by people whose ancestors were called *MacMhaolduinn*, "son of the brown(-haired) monk". *MacIlledhuinn* is also anglicised as Dunn.

### **Bruce** Brus

(gen. *Bhrus*; voc. *a Bhrusaich*)

This originally French name, originating in Brix in Normandy, was adopted into Gaelic and English due to the influence of the aristocratic de Brus family.

### **Bryden** MacBhrighdeinn, MacFrideinn, MacRìdeinn

(gen. *MhicBhrighdeinn*, *MhicFrideinn*, *MhicRìdeinn*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

Bryden is a name associated with the Borders and may have come from a place in England. The unrelated Gaelic names were used in Arran where they were anglicised as Bryden despite appearing to refer to St Bridget. *MacBhrighdeinn* is the original form of which the other two are variants, the first showing a devoicing of *Bh* to *F* and the second the lenition of *F* to *Fh* which in Gaelic is silent.

### **Buchanan** Bochanan, Cananach, Mac a' Chananaich, MacAbhsalain, MacMhannain

(gen. *Bhochanain*, *Chananaich*, *Mhic a' Chananaich*, *MhicAbhsalain*, *MhicMhannain*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

*Bochanan* or *Buchanan* is a place-name in Stirlingshire deriving from *Both a' Chanain*, "the hut of the canon". Therefore *Cananach*, "canon-like", denotes a native of that area. *Mac a' Chananaich* is "son of the Buchanan man" while *MacAbhsalain*, "son of Absalom", where it was anglicised as MacAuslan, was found mainly in Strath Endrick and there also anglicised as Buchanan.

*MacMhannain* is said to be "son of Buchanan" and also anglicised as MacVannan in Skye where people of that name were referred to as *Clann MhicMhannain chuir na braide*, "The MacVannans, experts in thieving". As a group, the Buchanans are referred to as *na Cananaich* (gen. *nan Cananach*; voc. *a Chananacha*).

### **Budge** Buideach, Buids

(gen. *Bhuidich*, *Bhuids*; voc. *a Bhuidich*, *a Bhuidsich*)

Budge was an established name in Orkney as well as Caithness where it was adopted by people

originally called MacDonald who moved to Caithness during time of clan warfare. It is unclear where the name Budge comes from although the Gaelic forms are still found in Skye and Lewis.

**Buie** Buidheach, MacIllebhuidhe  
See **Bowie**.

**Burnie** MacBhraonaigh

(gen. *MhicBhraonaigh*; voc. *a MhicBhraonaigh*)

Burnie is associated with Dumfries-shire and is an anglicisation minus *Mac* of *MacBhraonaigh* which is said to be a Norse-Gaelic personal name based on *björn*, "bear", as found further north in place-names such as *Beàrnasdal* or Bernisdale and *Beàrnaraigh* or Berneray.

**Buttar, Butter** Puidreach

(gen. *Phuidrich*; voc. *a Phuidrich*)

This name is closely linked to Perthshire where *Puidreach* means someone from the Balquhidder area, from *Both Phuidir*, "Puidir's hut". *Puidreach* was then anglicised as Buttar or Butter, leading to the name of Butterstone which is a village near Dunkeld.

**Caie** Càidh

(gen. *Chàidh*; voc. *a Chàidhich*)

Caie is associated with Aberdeenshire and is thought to be derived from *MacAoidh* or *MacÀidh* which is usually anglicised as MacKay. If this is the case, Caie is another example of a Gaelic name partly losing *Mac* in the process of anglicisation, although retaining the *C*. *Càidh* is also anglicised as Keith especially in Caithness and Sutherland.

**Caig** MacCaoig

(gen. *MhicCaoig*; voc. *a MhicCaoig*)

"Son of Tadhg", a first name no longer current in Scotland. The name was originally *MacThaidhg* (gen. *MhicThaidhg*; voc. *a MhicThaidhg*) and was anglicised here retaining only the *C* of *Mac*, although MacCaig is probably a more common anglicisation. This name is associated mainly with the area around the lower Firth of Clyde.

**Cail** MacCathail

See **Auld**.

**Caird** Mac na Ceàrda, Mac na Ceàrdaich

(gen. *Mhic na Ceàrda*, *Mhic na Ceàrdaich*; voc. *a Mhic na Ceàrda*, *a Mhic na Ceàrdaich*)

"Son of the tinker or forge". *Mac na Ceàrdaich* is often anglicised as **Sinclair**.

**Cairney, Cairnie** MacCearnaigh

(gen. *MhicCearnaigh*; voc. *a MhicCearnaigh*)

These names were found in Galloway and represent "son of Cearnach" meaning "victorious".

**Calbraith** Mac a' Bhreatannaich

See **Braithnoch**.

**Calder** Caldal, Caldanach, Calldal

(gen. *Chaldail*, *Chaldanaich*, *Challdail*; voc. *a Chaldalaich*, *a Chaldanaich*, *a Challdalaich*)

Calder was originally a place-name of which there are several across the country, particularly associated with rivers as in *Caladar* meaning "hard water". However, in Caithness a valley name,

Caldell, was adopted as a surname and in English fell together with Calder. In Gaelic, however, the final sound of the valley name was retained giving *Caldal* and *Calldal* which were used in north Sutherland, while *Caldanach* was found further south and east. The Calders were referred to as *na Caldalaich* (gen. *nan Caldalach*; voc. *a Caldalacha*) or *na Calldalaich* (gen. *nan Calldalach*; voc. *a Challdalacha*) on the north coast of Sutherland and *na Caldanaich* (gen. *nan Caldalanach*; voc. *a Chaldanacha*) further south and east.

### **Callan** MacAilein

(gen. *MhicAilein*; voc. *a MhicAilein*)

"Son of Ailean/Alan". The anglicised form is another example of *Mac* being partly dropped from the original Gaelic name with only the *C* being retained.

### **Callanach** Caileanach

(gen. *Chaileanaich*; voc. *a Chaileanaich*)

This adjectival surname was found in Appin and derives originally from either one of the first names, *Ailean* or *Cailean*. See **Alan** and **Colin** in Section 2 above.

### **Callister** MacAlasdair

See **MacAllister**.

### **Callum** MacMhaolchaluim

(gen. *MhicMhaolchaluim*; voc. *a MhicMhaolchaluim*)

"Son of Maolchaluim/Malcolm", a first name derived from "devotee of Calum", probably referring to St Columba.

### **Cambridge** MacAmbrais

(gen. *MhicAmbrais*; voc. *a MhicAmbrais*)

"Son of Ambras/Ambrose". The anglicised form is another example of *Mac* being partly dropped from the original Gaelic name with only the *C* being retained.

### **Cameron** Camshron

(gen. *Chamshroin*; voc. *a Chamshronaich*)

This was originally a nickname meaning "crooked nose" that became a surname. The Camerons are called *na Camshronaich* (gen. *nan Camshronach*; voc. *a Chamshronacha*) in general but local groups had different designations in different parts of the country. The Camerons of Achdalu were known as *Clann Mhic a' Mhaighstir*, "offspring of MacMaster", and their chief as *Mac a' Mhaighstir*, "son of the master" or MacMaster. In Glen Nevis the Camerons were known as *Sliochd Shomhairle Ruaidh*, "descendants of red-haired Somhairle/Somerled", and were also known as the MacSorleys of Glen Nevis whose chief was *Mac Shomhairle Ruaidh*, "son of red-haired Somerled". The Camerons of Letterfinlay were *Clann MhicMhàrtainn*, "offspring of MacMartin", and their chief was *Mac MhicMhàrtainn*, "son of MacMartin", while the Camerons of Loch Arkaig were *Clann Mhic a' Phì*, "offspring of MacPhee", with their chief known as *Mac a' Phì*, MacPhee. The Camerons in Murlaggan were *Clann MhicIllemhaoil*, "offspring of MacMillan", with their chief *MacIllemhaoil*, MacMillan, and the Camerons of Strone were *Clann MhicIllonfhaidh* or *Clann MhicMhaolonfhaidh*, "offspring of MacGillonie or MacAlonie", their chief being *MacIllonfhaidh* or *MacMhaolonfhaidh*. The Camerons of Wester Moy in Lochaber were *Teaghlach na Maighe*. Cameron of Erracht was *Mac Eòghainn Mhic Eòghainn*, "the son of Eòghann/Ewan son of Eòghann", and Cameron of Locheil had the designation *Mac Dhòmhnaill Duibh*, "the son of black-haired Dòmhnall/Donald".

### **Campbell** Caimbeul, Camal

(gen. *Chaimbeil*, *Chamail*; voc. *a Chaimbeulaich*, *a Chamalaich*)

This surname began life as a nickname meaning "crooked mouth". *Camal* was used in north Sutherland and *Caimbeul* elsewhere. The Campbells as a whole went under a variety of names, especially *na Caimbeulaich*, but other names reveal their pre-"Campbell" names, such as *na Duibhnich*, "the O'Duines", or *Clann Duibhne*, "the offspring of O'Duine", a group of families from the Lochawe area, and their origins are also reflected in the designations *Siol Diarmaid*, "the seed of Diarmaid", the legendary Gaelic hero said to have met his death in Glenshee among other places, and *Sliochd Dhiarmaid O Duibhne*, "descendants of Diarmaid O'Duine". The chief of the Campbells also known as the Duke of Argyll is *Mac Cailein Mór*, "great son of Cailean/Colin". Local groups of Campbells had different designations according to where they lived, such as the Campbells of Ardkinglas who were known as *Sliochd Chailein Òig*, "descendants of young Colin", whose chief was *Mac Iain Riabhaich*, "son of brindled Iain/John". The Campbells of Barcaldine were called *Sliochd a' Bhriogain Duinn*, "tribe of the brown trousers" and *Sliochd Phara Bhig*, "descendants of little Para/Paddy", while the Campbells of Cawdor were dismissed as *Caimbeulaich Bhoga Chaladair*, "the soft Campbells of Cawdor". The Campbells of Harris were *Clann Choinnich*, "the offspring of Coinneach/Kenneth". Other designations accorded to the heads of local branches of Campbells included *Mac Mhic Bhaltair*, "son of the son of Bhaltair/Walter", the head of the Campbells of Ardvorlich. *Mac Ìomhair*, "son of Ìomhar/Ivar", was head of the Campbells of Asknish, while Campbell of Craignish was *Mac Dhùghaill Chraiginis*, "son of Dùghall/Dugald of Craignish". Campbell of Dunstaffnage was *Mac Aonghais an Dùin*, "son of Aonghas/Angus of the Dun", and Campbell of Duntroon was *Mac Dhonnchaidh Mhóir*, "son of great Donnchadh/Duncan". The designation *Mac Dhonnchaidh*, "son of Duncan" was shared by Campbell of Glen Feochan and Campbell of Inverawe. Campbell of Glenorchy was also known in English as the Earl of Breadalbane and had the Gaelic designation *Mac Chailein Mhic Dhonnchaidh*, "son of Colin son of Duncan". The head of the Campbells of Inverneill was *Mac Theàrlaich*, "son of Teàrlach/Charles" and of the Campbells of Strachur *Mac Mhic Artair*, "son of the son of Artair/Arthur".

### **Canch** MacAonghais

See **MacInnes**.

### **Candlish** MacCuinnleis

(gen. *MhicCuinnleis*; voc. *a MhicCuinnleis*)

"Son of Cuinnleas", a first name no longer in use. *MacCuinnleis* is also anglicised as Chandlish and MacCandlish.

### **Cardle** MacÀrdghail

(gen. *MhicÀrdghail*; voc. *a MhicÀrdghail*)

"Son of Àrdghal", a first name no longer in use meaning "high valour". *MacÀrdghail* is also anglicised as MacArdle and MacCardle.

### **Carmichael** MacIllemhicheil

(gen. *MhicIllemhicheil*; voc. *a MhicIllemhicheil*)

Carmichael, from the Brythonic for "Michael's fort", is a place in Lanarkshire the name of which has been adopted as a surname. *MacIllemhicheil* is "son of the follower of saint Micheal/Michael" and is anglicised as Carmichael solely because of the Michael part of both names which are otherwise not related.

### **Carr** Carra, Carrach, Cearrach



See **Kerr**.

**Carswell** Carsalach, Carsual

(gen. *Charsalaich*, *Charsuail*; voc. *a Charsalaich*, *a Charsualaich*)

There are a number of places called Carswell or a variation thereof, particularly in the southern half of the country, one such being Corsewall in the Rinns of Galloway, and this has been adopted as a surname then gaelicised as above. The first book to be printed in Gaelic was the translation by John Carswell of the Book of Common Order in 1567 under the name of *Foirm na n-Urrnuidheadh*. Carswell himself spelled his name *Carsuel* in the Gaelic of the time. Carnaserrie Castle in Argyll was known as *Caisteal Mòr nan Carsalach*, "the great castle of the Carswells".

**Carter** MacArtair

(gen. *MhicArtair*; voc. *a MhicArtair*)

"Son of Artair/Arthur". This name was found in Perthshire and provides another example of patronymics in Gaelic losing parts or all of *Mac* in the process of anglicisation. *MacArtair* is usually anglicised as MacArthur.

**Caskie** MacAsgaidh

(gen. *MhicAsgaidh*; voc. *a MhicAsgaidh*)

This name comes from Galloway and Argyll and is a shortened form of MacCaskie which appears to be a version of **MacAskill**.

**Cassie** MacCathasaigh

(gen. *MhicCathasaigh*; voc. *a MhicCathasaigh*)

"Son of Cathasach", a personal name meaning "vigilant". The same basic name leads to "Casey" and "O'Casey" in Ireland.

**Cattanach** Catan, Catanach

(gen. *Chatain*, *Chatanaich*; voc. *a Chatanaich*, *a Chatanaich*)

*Catan* is a personal name meaning "little cat" and *Catanach* is an adjective derived from it. It is worth bearing in mind that *Cat* might be a tribal name as found in the names of Caithness and *Cataibh*, the Gaelic name of Sutherland. This name is found in Moray and Speyside where the Clan Chattan were known as *Clann Chatain*, "the offspring of Catan", *Clann Gillechatain*, "offspring of the follower of Catan" and simply *na Catanaich*, "the people of Catan" or "the Cattanachs". Clan Chattan was an alliance of clans and families living mainly in the Strathspey, Badenoch and Speyside areas. The first name *Catan* occurred in other areas such as *Aird Chatain* or Ardchattan in Argyll.

**Catto** Catach

(gen. *Chataich*; voc. *a Chataich*)

This name suggests "person from Sutherland", from *Cataibh*, "Sutherland", and *Catach*, "native of Sutherland". In east and north-east place and personal names it is quite common to find Gaelic final *-ach* being realised in English as "-o", as in *Baile Àirneach* or Balerno, "farm of the sloes", and *Ràth Manach* or Romanno, "circular fort of monks".

**Caunce** MacAonghais

See **MacInnes**.

**Caw** MacÀdhaimh

See **MacAdam**.

### **Chalmers, Chambers** MacAmbrais

Chalmers and Chambers are derived from French *chambre*, "room", and denote an occupation such as chamber attendant. In Argyll some families called *MacAmbrais* adopted Chambers as their anglicised name despite the two names being unrelated. See **Cambridge**.

### **Chandlish** MacCuinnleis

See **Candlish**.

### **Charleson** MacTheàrlaich

(gen. *MhicTheàrlaich*; voc. *a MhicTheàrlaich*)

"Son of Teàrlach/Charles". This anglicised name is associated with Caithness but *MacTheàrlaich* is also found as MacKerlich.

### **Chisholm** Siosal, Siosalach

(gen. *Shiosail, Shiosalaich*; voc. *a Shiosalaich*)

Chisholm is a place-name based on the French *de Chené* to which "holm" was added. The name is associated with Roxburghshire where it began to be used as a surname which was then adapted to the Gaelic sound system after some of the Chisholms moved north. The Chisholms as a whole are called *na Siosalaich* while the Chisholms of Strathglass are *na Siosalaich Ghlaiseach*, "the Glass Chisholms". The chief of the Chisholms is *An Siosalach (Mór)*, "the (Great) Chisholm", while Chisholm of Strathglass was *An Siosalach Glaiseach* or *Siosalach Srath Ghlais*.

### **Christie** MacCrisdein

(gen. *MhicCrisdein*; voc. *a MhicCrisdein*)

"Son of Crisdean/Christopher", the anglicised name showing the regular dropping of *Mac* from the original Gaelic form.

### **Chrystal** MacCrisdeil, MacCrisdein

(gen. *MhicCrisdeil, MhicChrìsdein*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

"Son of Crisdeal or Crisdean/Christopher", the anglicised name showing the regular dropping of *Mac* from the original Gaelic form.

### **Clanachan** MacIllonchon

(gen. *MhicIllonchon*; voc. *a MhicIllonchon*)

"Son of the follower of saint **Onchu**", a first name no longer in use. This name is associated with Galloway and appears in other spellings such as Clenachan and MacClanachan.

### **Clark, Clarke** Clàrc, Cléireach, Mac a' Chléirich

(gen. *Chlàirc, Chléirich, Mhic a' Chléirich*; voc. *a Chlàrcaich, a Chléirich, a Mhic a' Chléirich*)

These names denote a clerk or cleric in both languages. *Clàrc* is a gaelicisation of the English name. The names *Cléireach* and *Mac a' Chléirich* originated in Cowal and the latter is also anglicised as Clerie in Galloway, and as MacClerie and MacLerie more generally. The Clarks who were a sept of the MacIntoshes are *Clann a' Chléirich*, "offspring of the cleric".

### **Clean** MacIlleathain

See **MacLean**.

### **Cleland, Clelland** MacIllfhaolain

(gen. *MhicIllfhaolain*; voc. *a MhicIllfhaolain*)

Cleland is a place-name in Lanarkshire which is probably the origin of this surname in many instances. However *MacIllfhaolain*, usually anglicised as **MacLellan**, Gilfillan, Gilliland and MacClelland may also take the forms here.

**Clenachan** MacIlllonchon  
See **Clanachan**.

**Clerie** Mac a' Chléirich  
See **Clark**.

**Clinton** MacIllfhionndain  
(gen. *MhicIllfhionndain*; voc. *a MhicIllfhionndain*)  
"Son of the follower of saint Fionndan/Fintan". *MacIllfhionndain* is also anglicised as MacLinton and possibly even Linton due to the process whereby *Mac* in the original Gaelic name was either omitted or reduced in the anglicised form. However, most people called Linton can probably derive their surname from East or West Linton in the Lothians, denoting a place where flax was grown.

**Cochrane** Ceacharna, MacEacharna  
(gen. *Cheacharna*, *MhicEacharna*; voc. *a Cheacharnaich*, *a MhicEacharna*)  
*MacEacharna*, "son of Eacharn/Hector", is usually anglicised as MacEachern or MacKechnie but in Argyll several families adopted Cochrane in English or had it assigned to them. Given the regularity with which *Mac* was dropped entirely, or reduced to *c* in southern dialects, *MacEacharna* developed into *Ceacharna* and ceased to be recognised as a patronymic and was understood as an adjectival surname, giving rise to the feminine *Cheacharna* form. However, most instances of Cochrane apart from those in Argyll do not originate in *MacEacharna* but from the name of uncertain origin of a place near Paisley, and as such the two names are unrelated in meaning or origin.

**Coles** MacDhùghaill  
See **MacDougall**.

**Colinson** MacCailein  
(gen. *MhicCailein*; voc. *a MhicCailein*)  
*MacCailein*, "son of Cailean/Colin", is also anglicised as Cullen.

**Colquhon** Mac a' Chombaich, Mac a' Chonnaich  
(gen. *Mhic a' Chombaich*, *Mhic a' Chonnaich*; voc. *a Mhic a' Chombaich*, *a Mhic a' Chonnaich*)  
Colquhon is originally the name of a barony in Dunbartonshire and the surname Colquhon is associated with the Loch Lomond area which is the seat of the Colquhon chief, known in Gaelic as *Tighearna Luis*, "the Lord of Luss". *Mac a' Chombaich* is derived from *MacThomaidh*, "son of Tomaidh/Tommy", and is also anglicised as MacCombie. In the Loch Lomond area *Clann a' Chombaich*, "the offspring of Tomaidh/Tommy", took the name of Colquhon.

**Combe** MacThom  
(gen. *MhicThom*; voc. *a MhicThom*)  
"Son of Tom", showing the reduction of *Mac* to *C* in the anglicised form. This name was found in Carrick and Galloway but *MacThom* is also anglicised as MacComb and Thom.

**Comiskey** MacCumasgaigh  
(gen. *MhicCumasgaigh*; voc. *a MhicCumasgaigh*)  
"Son of Cumasgach", a name suggesting someone powerful and overwhelming, and originating in

north-east Ireland although no longer in use there or in Scotland as a first name.

**Common Cuimein**

(gen. *Chuimein*; voc. *a Chuimeinich*)

This English name is associated mainly with Dumfries-shire; elsewhere *Cuimein* is usually anglicised as **Cumming**.

**Conlay MacDhùnshléibhe**

See **Livingstone**.

**Conn MacCuinn**

(gen. *MhicCuinn*; voc. *a MhicCuinn*)

"Son of Conn", a first name meaning "leader" or "wise man". This name is linked with Aberdeenshire where the bearers claimed association with the MacDonalds. In the west the Conns were known as *Sìol Chuinn*, "the seed of Conn", and were also associated with the MacDonalds.

**Connell MacIllechonail**

(gen. *MhicIllechonail*; voc. *a MhicIllechonail*)

"Son of the follower of Conall". This name was used by families of boatbuilders in Lismore and the wider area including Loch Awe who were known as *na Conallaich* and *Clann MhicIllechonail*. The Gaelic surname was used mainly in Argyll, Carrick, Galloway and Perthshire where it was anglicised as **MacWhannell**.

**Connan MacConnain**

(gen. *MhicConnain*; voc. *a MhicConnain*)

This name was found in Aberdeenshire and is formed with *Connan* which is a diminutive of *Conn*. See **Conn**.

**Cook MacCuaig, MacCùga**

(gen. *MhicCuaig, MhicCùga*; voc. *a MhicCuaig, a MhicCùga*)

Cook is usually an occupational surname but is also an anglicisation of *MacCuaig* which is found in Islay and *MacCùga* which originated in Arran. See **MacCook** and **MacCuaig**.

**Corbett Corbaid**

(gen. *Chorbaid*; voc. *a Chorbaidich*)

This is a gaelicisation of the English name which itself is from the French *corbet*, "raven", and also the source of the Scots "corbie". *Corbaid* was used in north Sutherland where the Corbetts were known as *na Corbaidich*.

**Cormack MacCarraig**

(gen. *MhicCarraig*; voc. *a MhicCarraig*)

"Son of Carraig/Cormack".

**Coull MacDhùghaill**

See **MacDougall**.

**Coutts Cudsach, Cuitseach**

(gen. *Chudsaich, Chuitsich*; voc. *a Chudsaich, a Chuitsich*)

This name comes from the settlement of Cults in Aberdeen. *Cudsach* was found in Aberdeenshire while *Cuitseach* was used in Upper Banffshire and both are gaelicisations of the English name.

**Cowan** Còmhain, MacCòmhain, MacComhghain, MacIllechòmhain, MacIllechomhghain  
(gen. *Chòmhain, MhicCòmhain, MhicComhghain, MhicIllechòmhain, MhicIllechomhghain*; voc. *a Chòmhanaich, a MhicCòmhain, a MhicComhghain, a MhicIllechòmhain, a MhicIllechomhghain*)  
The basis of these names is *Comhghan* (simplified as *Còmhain*) which has no English equivalent but is an 8<sup>th</sup> century Irish saint's name and found in the name of *Cille Chomhghain* or Kilchoan in Ardnamurchan. *Còmhain* is an example of a surname which has dropped the *Mac* and ceased to be recognised as a patronymic as in the case of **Cochrane**. The second and third Gaelic names are "son of Comhghan" while the last two are "son of the follower of saint Comhghan".

**Craig** Mac a' Charraige

(gen. *Mhic a' Charraige*; voc. *a Mhic a' Charraige*)

Craig is a territorial name meaning "rock" based on Gaelic *carraig* rather than *creag* which is more common today, and adopted as a surname. *Mac a' Charraige* is a name associated with Arran and means "son of the rock".

**Cranna** Crannach

(gen. *Chrannaich*; voc. *a Chrannaich*)

This name originated in Aberdeenshire and Banffshire where places called Cranna or Crannoch refer to locations where trees were plentiful, from Gaelic *crann*, "tree". The place-name has been adopted as a surname.

**Crawford** Crathartach, Creamhain, MacCrafain, MacCreamhain, MacCreamhainn

(gen. *Chrathartaich, Chreamhain, MhicCrafain, MhicCreamhain, MhicCreamhainn*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

Crawford is a place in Lanarkshire and *Crathartach*, used in Cowal, may be a gaelicisation of this. *Creamhain*, *MacCreamhain* and *MacCreamhainn* occurred throughout Argyll and Arran but the personal name *Creamhan* or *Reamhan* is no longer in use and of unclear origin. *MacCrafain* is an alternative spelling and pronunciation used in Arran.

**Crerar** Criatharach, Mac a' Chriathrair

(gen. *Chriatharaich, Mhic a' Chriathrair*; voc. *a Chriatharaich, a Mhic a' Chriathrair*)

These names denote the occupation of harrower or riddle maker and were found around Loch Tay and in Strathspey.

**Crockett** MacRiocaird

(gen. *MhicRiocaird*; voc. *a MhicRiocaird*)

"Son of Riocard/Richard", showing the residual *C* from *Mac*. This name was fairly common in Galloway.

**Crossan** Mac a' Chrosain, MacCrosain

(gen. *Mhic a' Chrosain, MhicCrosain*; voc. *a Mhic a' Chrosain, a MhicCrosain*)

"Son of the jester", showing the dropping of *Mac* in the English form. The jester or fool was a position in the household of noble families.

**Crum** MacIllechruim

(gen. *MhicIllechruim*; voc. *a MhicIllechruim*)

"Son of the hump-backed one", showing the loss of *MacIlle* in the anglicised form. *MacIllechruim* is associated with north Lorn but spread from there and became fairly widespread as Crum in Dunbartonshire.

### **Cubbin** MacGiobain

(gen. *MhicGiobain*; voc. *a MhicGiobain*)

"Son of Gioban/Gibbon" which is a diminutive form of Gilbert. In English this was originally MacCubbin and closely associated with Dumfries-shire and Kirkcudbright-shire, but the *Mac* was later dropped. The name is also anglicised as MacGibbon.

### **Cullen** MacCailein

(gen. *MhicCailein*; voc. *a MhicCailein*)

"Son of Cailean/Colin", with *Mac* dropped in the anglicised version, and also anglicised as Colinson. Some instances of Cullen may stem from the name of the town in Banffshire.

### **Cumming** Cuimein, Cuimeineach

(gen. *Cuimein*, *Chuimeinich*; voc. *a Chuimeinich*, *a Chuimeinich*)

*Cuimein* is also anglicised as Common and Comyn in Dumfries-shire and the south, and the name originates in the northern French town of Comines. The Cummings as a whole were known as *na Cuimeinich* and certain Cumming families in the Duthil area who had adopted the name after moving into the district were called *Cuimeinich clach nan cearc*, "the Cummings of the hen-trough". The duplicity of the Cummings in the eyes of their neighbours led to the saying *Fhad 's a bhios maide sa choill, cha bhi Cuimeineach gun fhoill*, "As long as there's wood in the forest, no Cumming will lack duplicity". The Cummings themselves altered the rhyme to *Fhad 's a bhios maide sa choill, cha bhi foill an Cuimeineach*, "As long as there's wood in the forest, there will be no duplicity in any Cumming".

### **Cunningham** Coineagan

(gen. *Choineagain*; voc. *a Choineagain*)

This was originally the name of a district in north Ayrshire adopted as a surname, with *Coineagan* being a Gaelic adaptation.

### **Currie** Cuirigh, MacFuirigh, MacMhuirich, MacUirigh

(gen. *Cuirigh*, *MhicFuirigh*, *MhicMhuirich*, *MhicUirigh*; voc. *a Chuirigh*, *a MhicFuirigh*, *a MhicMhuirich*, *a MhicUirigh*)

"Son of Muireach/Murdoch". *MacUirigh* and *Cuirigh* are simplified forms of *MacMhuirich* found mainly in Arran, where *MacFuirigh* was also a variant. In South Uist, *MacMhuirich* was more commonly used, although this was also often anglicised as Currie. See **MacMurray**.

### **Cuthbertson** MacSheòrsa

(gen. *MhicSheòrsa*; voc. *a MhicSheòrsa*)

In Inverness *MacSheòrsa*, "son of Seòrsa/George", was anglicised as Cuthbertson possibly through some slight similarity in sound, although the two names are unrelated.

### **Darroch** MacIlleriabhaich

(gen. *MhicIlleriabhaich*; voc. *a MhicIlleriabhaich*)

There is a place called Darroch near Falkirk, the name being from Gaelic *darach* meaning an oak wood. *MacIlleriabhaich* is "son of the brindled one" and was common in Jura where it was anglicised for some reason as Darroch, possibly because *riabhach* sounds a bit like the second syllable of Darroch. Elsewhere the name is anglicised as MacIlwraith, Reoch, Revie and Riach, the last three forms showing the dropping of *MacIlle*.

### **Davidson** Déibheasdan, MacDhàibhidh

(gen. *Dhéibheasdain, MhicDhàibhidh*; voc. *a Dhéibheasdanaich, a MhicDhàibhidh*)  
*Déibheasdan* is a gaelicisation of the English name while *MacDhàibhidh* is "son of Dàibhidh/David". and the Davidsons as a whole are known as *Clann Dàibhidh*, "offspring of David", or just *na Déibheasdanaich*. *MacDhàibhidh* may have developed into *MacÀidh* which is anglicised as MacKay but there is also an argument that *MacÀidh* originated in *MacÀdhaimh* which becomes MacAdam. See **Day**.

**Day, Deason, Desson, Dey** MacDhàibhidh

(gen. *MhicDhàibhidh*; voc. *a MhicDhàibhidh*)

"Son of Dàibhidh/David". These anglicisations of *MacDhàibhidh* showing the loss of *Mac* were found in Banffshire and Moray.

**Denson** Mac an Deadhain

(gen. *Mhic an Deadhain*; voc. *a Mhic an Deadhain*).

"The son of the dean". This name was found in Perthshire and the Gaelic name is most likely a translation of the English.

**Dewar** Deòir, Deòreach, Mac an Deòir

(gen. *Dheòir, Dheòirich, Mhic an Deòir*; voc. *a Dheòirich, a Dheòirich, a Mhic an Deòir*)

"Son of the pilgrim". *Deòir* later became a semi-official title designating the keeper of religious relics. *Mac an Deòir* is also anglicised as MacIndeor and is also related to *Mac an Deòraidh* a name found in Galloway and anglicised as Jorrie and MacJarrow. See **MacClure**.

**Doig** Gilledog

(gen. *Ghilledog*; voc. *a Ghilledog, Illedog*)

This name which is a reduced form of "follower of St Cadoc" is associated with Perthshire as is unusual in lacking *Mac* which would be expected in a patronymic.

**Donald, Donaldson** MacDhòmhnaill

See **MacDonald**.

**Donnachie** MacDhonnchaidh

See **Robertson**.

**Dorward, Durward** Mac an Dorsair

(gen. *Mhic an Dorsair*; voc. *a Mhic an Dorsair*)

"Son of the janitor or doorman". These names were found mainly in Perthshire.

**Douglas** Dùghlas, MacLùcais

(gen. *Dhùghlais, MhicLùcais*; voc. *a Dhùghlasaich, a MhicLùcais*)

Douglas is a place in Lanarkshire, stemming from Gaelic *dubh ghlais* meaning "black stream", which was adopted as a surname. *MacLùcais*, "son of Lùcas/Luke", is associated with Argyll where it is also anglicised as MacLugash, but is anglicised as Douglas due to a certain similarity in sound.

**Dove** Dubh, MacCalmain

(gen. *Dhuibh, MhicCalmain*; voc. *a Dhubhaich, a MhicCalmain*)

The two Gaelic names are unrelated, *dubh* being an adjective meaning "black" which in some dialects is close to "dove" in sound, while *calman* is Gaelic for "dove" or "pigeon". *MacCalmain* is also anglicised as MacCalman and in Lochalsh as **Murchison**, whose chief's title is *Mac Calmain*.

**Dow** Dubh, MacIlledhuibh  
See **Black** and **Dove**.

**Dowall** MacDhùghaill  
See **MacDougall**.

**Dowie** MacIlledhuibh  
See **Black**.

**Downie** MacIlledhòmhnaich  
(gen. *MhicIlledhòmhnaich*; voc. *a MhicIlledhòmhnaich*)

There is a place near Monikie in Angus called Downie or Duny and this surname was common in the area. Outwith Angus, Downie may be an anglicisation of the Gaelic name which means "son of the follower of the Lord" showing the fairly common loss of *MacIlle* in the anglicised form.

**Drain** Mac O Dhrein, Mac O Dreain  
(gen. *Mhic O Dhrein*, *Mhic O Dreain*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)  
These names were found in Kintyre and are of Irish origin possibly containing the word *droigheann* meaning "thorn". In Ireland similar names are anglicised as Drennan and Thornton. It is interesting that in a few cases Scottish Gaelic *Mac* was added to Irish names containing *Ó*, "grandson, descendant", which carries out the same function as *Mac*.

**Drummond** Druimein, Druimeineach  
(gen. *Dhruimein*, *Dhruimeinich*; voc. *a Dhruimeinich*, *a Dhruimeinich*)  
This name was originally that of a place in Perthshire meaning "ridge place" and used directly as a surname or in adjectival form as *Druimeineach*. The Drummonds as a whole are *na Druimeinich* (gen. *nan Druimeineach*; voc. *a Dhruimeineacha*) and their leader was *An Druimeineach (Mór)*, "the (Great) Drummond", also known as *Iarla* (later *Diùc*) *Pheairt*, in translation from the English titles, Earl (later Duke) of Perth.

**Duff** Dubh  
See **Dove**.

**Duffy** MacDhubhshìth  
(gen. *MhicDhubhshìth*; voc. *a MhicDhubhshìth*)  
In areas where *bh* was sounded, *MacDhubhshìth* also became simplified as *Mac a' Phì*. See **MacPhee**.

**Dunbar** Barrach  
(gen. *Bharraich*; voc. *a Bharraich*)  
This is a place-name in East Lothian meaning "Barr's fort" and adopted as a surname. Gaelic has adapted the final part of the name to form an adjectival surname. The Dunbars were referred to as *na Barraich* which coincidentally is how people from the island of Barra are known.

**Duncan, Duncanson** MacDhonnchaidh  
See **Robertson**.

**Dunn** MacIlledhuinn  
See **Brown**.



**Duthie** MacDhubhthaich, MacIlledhubhthaich

(gen. *MhicDhubhthaich*, *MhicIlledhubhthaich*; voc. *a MhicDhubhthaich*, *a MhicIlledhubhthaich*)

"Son of Dubhthach/Duthac" or "son of the follower of saint Duthac".

**Eason** MacÀdhaimh

See **MacAdam**.

**Eggo** Cìogach

(gen. *Chiogaich*; voc. *a Chiogaich*)

These names are associated with Mar and believed to be related to *Àdhamh*, the Gaelic equivalent of Adam. The initial *C* in *Cìogach* may represent a reduction of *Mac* in *MacÀdhaimh* but this is uncertain, although one of the anglicised forms of *MacÀdhaimh* is MacKeggie which is fairly close to Eggo.

**Elder** Mac an Fhoirbhich

(gen. *Mhic an Fhoirbhich*; voc. *a Mhic an Fhoirbhich*)

"Son of the elder". This translation of *Mac an Fhoirbhich* originated in Argyll where the name also became MacNoravich and even Munro in some instances.

**Erskine** Arasgain

(unchanged in gen. & voc.)

These names refer to Erskine in Renfrewshire and became used as surnames.

**Espie** MacIlleasbaig

See **Archibald**.

**Esson** MacÀdhaimh

See **MacAdam**.

**Eunson, Evinson, Ewenson, Ewing** MacEóghainn

See **MacEwan**.

**Faed** MacPhaid

(gen. *MhicPhaid*; voc. *a MhicPhaid*)

This name, meaning "son of Paid/Pat", is associated with Galloway.

**Farquhar, Farquharson** MacFhearchair

(gen. *MhicFhearchair*; voc. *a MhicFhearchair*)

"Son of Fearchar/Farquhar". *MacFhearchair* is also anglicised as Fergusson in Arran, and as MacErchar, MacFarquhar and MacKerracher elsewhere. The Farquharsons are known as *Clann Fhearchair*, "offspring of Farquhar", and also as *Clann* or *Sìol Fhionnlaigh*, "offspring or seed of Fionnlagh/Finlay", after the progenitor of the clan. The Farquharsons of Inverey are *Clann Sheumais*, "offspring of Seumas/James" or *Clann Mhic Sheumais*, "offspring of the son of James". The valour of the Farquharsons is noted in a poem of John Roy Stewart, *Clann Fhionnlaigh Bhràigh Mhàrr*, *Buidheann ceannsgalach àrd*, *Nuair a ghlaoidhte Adbhàns*, *'S iad a dh'èireadh*, "The Farquharsons of Braemar, A noble commanding group, Whenever Advance was called, They were the ones to rise". Farquharson of Invercauld is *Mac Mhic Fhionnlaigh*, "son of the son of Finlay", also known as *Fear Inbhir Call* or *Tighearna Inbhir Call*, "laird of Invercauld".

**Fee** Mac a' Phì, MacDhubhshith

See **MacPhee**.

**Fergus** MacFhearghais

See **Ferguson**.

**Ferguson, Fergusson** Fearghasdan, MacFhearchair, MacFhearghais

(gen. *Fhearghasdain, MhicFhearchair, MhicFhearghais*; voc. *Fhearasdanaich, a MhicFhearchair, a MhicFhearghais*)

*MacFhearghais* is "son of Fearghas/Fergus" and *MacFhearchair* is "son of Fearchar/Farquhar".

*Fearghasdan* is a gaelicisation of Ferguson. *MacFhearchair* is anglicised as Ferguson only in Arran, but elsewhere see **Farquhar**. *MacFhearghais* is also anglicised as Fergus, Ferries, Ferris, MacFerries in Braemar, and MacKerras. The Fergusons as a whole are known as *Clann Fhearghais*, "offspring of Fergus", or *na Fearghasdanaich* but in some areas Fergusons are known by different names. The Fergusons of Balmacrae were *Clann Mhic Àdaimh* or *Clann Mhic Àididh*, "offspring of the son of Àdamh/Adam", whose chief was *Mac Àdaimh* or *Mac Àididh*, "son of Adam", and the Fergusons of Strachur were *Clann Fhearghais Srath Chura*, "offspring of Fergus of Strachur", whose chief was *Mac Fhearghais Srath Chura*, "son of Fergus of Strachur". Ferguson of Dunfallandy was known simply as *Mac Fhearghais*, "son of Fergus".

**Ferries, Ferris** MacFhearghais

See **Ferguson**.

**Fetridge** MacPheadrais

(gen. *MhicPheadrais*; voc. *a MhicPheadrais*)

"Son of Peadras/Petrus", with *Mac* dropped in the anglicised version.

**Findlay, Finlay** MacFhionnlaigh

See **Finlayson**.

**Finlayson** Fionnlasdan, MacFhionnlaigh

(gen. *Fhionnlasdain, MhicFhionnlaigh*; voc. *Fhionnlasdanaich, a MhicFhionnlaigh*)

*Fionnlasdan* is a gaelicisation of Finlayson, while *MacFhionnlaigh*, "son of Fionnlagh/Finlay", is also anglicised as MacKinlay, but in Glenshee as MacIntosh. The Finlaysons are *Clann Fhionnlaigh*, "offspring of Finlay", or *na Fionnlasdanaich*.

**Fisher** Mac an Iasgair

(gen. *Mhic an Iasgair*; voc. *a Mhic an Iasgair*)

"Son of the fisherman".

**Fleeman, Fleming** Flimean

(gen. *Fhlimein*; voc. *a Fhlimeanaich*)

These names denote a Fleming, someone from Flanders, and in the form of Fleeman is associated largely with Aberdeenshire where the famous 18<sup>th</sup> century court jester of the Laird of Udney was one Jamie Fleeman. The Gaelic name is an adaptation of the English.

**Fletcher** Mac an Fhléisteir, MacPheidearain

(gen. *Mhic an Fhléisteir, MhicPheidearain*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

*Mac an Fhléisteir* is "son of the fletcher (arrowmaker)", while *MacPheidearain* is "son of little Peter" which was anglicised as Fletcher only in the Glencoe area, but as MacPhedran elsewhere. Fletcher of Achallader near Bridge of Orchy was known simply as *Mac an Fhléisteir*. *Mac an*

*Fhléisteir* is also anglicised as **Leslie** and Lister, due to the regular dropping of *Mac* and Gaelic *Fh* being silent.

**Forbes** Foirbeis, Foirbeiseach, Fuirbeis, Fuirbeiseach

(gen. & voc. *Fhoirbeis, Fhoirbeisich, Fhuirbeis, Fhuirbeisich*)

This was originally a place-name in west Aberdeenshire, and the forms *Fuirbeis* and *Fuirbeiseach* were used in that area. The Forbeses in general are known as *na Foirbeisich* or *na Fuirbeisich*.

**Forsyth** Forsàidh

(gen. *Fhorsàidh*; voc. *Fhorsàidhich*)

*Forsàidh* is a gaelicisation of Forsyth which in itself may be an anglicisation of the Gaelic name *fear-sìthe*, "man of peace", but has the appearance of being a place-name of the same type as Forteach and Forteviot. The Forsyths are called *Clann Fearsithe*, "offspring of the man of peace", by their own clan association.

**Fraser, Frizell** Friseal, Frisealach

(gen. *Fhriseil, Fhrisealaich*; voc. *a Fhrisealaich, a Fhrisealaich*)

This was originally a French name, *de Frisselle*, the first holders of which in Scotland were Normans who settled in the Borders. The Frasers are known as *na Frisealaich* but also nicknamed *Frisealaich a' chàil*, "the Frasers of cabbage", while the Frasers of Reelick or Reelig near Beaulieu were known as *Clann a' Bharain*, "offspring of the baron". The chief of the Frasers, called Lord Lovat in English, is *Mac Shimidh*, "son of Sim or Simidh/Simon", while Fraser of Culbokie is *Mac Ùisdein*, "son of Ùisdean/Hugh".

**Fullarton** MacLothaidh

(gen. *MhicLothaidh*; voc. *a MhicLothaidh*)

There are places called Fullarton and Fullerton in Angus and Ayrshire respectively, and most Fullartons can trace their name's origin to those. *MacLothaidh* contains a diminutive of *Luthais*, Lewis, and is anglicised as Fullarton only in Arran and Bute where people called *MacLothaidh* could trace their ancestry to Fullartons of Ayrshire. Elsewhere *MacLothaidh* is anglicised as MacCloy or MacLoy.

**Gair** Geàrr, Giorr

(gen. *Gheàrr, Ghiorr*; voc. *a Ghearraich, a Ghiorraich*)

*Geàrr* or *Giorr* started life as a nickname meaning "short" and originated in Easter Ross.

**Galbraith** Mac a' Bhreatannaich

See **Braithnoch**.

**Gall** Gall, Mac a' Ghoill

(gen. *Ghoill, Mhic a' Ghoill*; voc. *a Ghoill, a Mhic a' Ghoill*)

*Gall*, "foreigner, non-Gael", began as a nickname that developed into a family name. *Mac a' Ghoill* is "son of the foreigner/non-Gael".

**Gallie** Gallach

(gen. *Ghallaich*; voc. *a Ghallaich*)

In Caithness and Sutherland, Gallie is an anglicisation of *Gallach* meaning someone from Caithness which is also anglicised as "Gollach". In Ayrshire and Bute, Gallie is believed to come from *Gall* meaning a foreigner or non-Gael, but in Bute people called *Gallach* adopted the surname Gillies in English which is unrelated to it in meaning.

### **Gammack**

(gen. *Ghàmaig*; voc. *a Ghàmaig*)

*Gàmag* is a large mouthful or a long stride, and this name came into English from a Gaelic nickname but interestingly never developed into a surname in Gaelic.

### **Garrow MacGarraidh**

(gen. *MhicGarraidh*; voc. *a MhicGarraidh*)

Garrow is the anglicised form of *MacGarraidh* in Braemar where the Garrows are *Sliochd Gharraidh*, "descendants of Garradh", a name which is unrelated to that found in **Hay** although similar in sound. Elsewhere Garrow may have begun as a nickname in Gaelic from *garbh*, "rough", which then developed into a surname in English. See also **MacGarrow**.

### **Garvie MacGairbheith**

(gen. *MhicGairbheith*; voc. *a MhicGairbheith*)

"Son of Gairbheith" which is an unclear first name but may have *garbh*, "rough", at its core.

### **Gauld Gall, Mac a' Ghoill**

See **Gall**.

### **Geddes Geadasach**

(gen. *Gheadasaich*; voc. *a Gheadasaich*)

This comes from the name of a place called Geddes or *Geadais* which represents "the place of the plot of land". There is a Geddes in Nairnshire and there may be others. *Geadasach* is an adjectival name referring to someone from Geddes.

### **Gellion MacIlleathain**

See **MacLean**.

### **Gilchrist MacIllechrìosd**

(gen. *MhicIllechrìosd*; voc. *a MhicIllechrìosd*)

"Son of the follower of Christ".

### **Gilfillan MacIlleghaolain**

See **Cleland**.

### **Gillanders MacIlleandrais**

See **Anderson**.

### **Gillespie MacIlleasbaig**

See **Archibald**.

### **Gillies Gallach, Gilios, MacIlliosa**

(gen. *Ghallaich, Ghilios, MhicIlliosa*; voc. *a Ghallaich, a Ghiliosaich, a MhicIlliosa*)

*Gallach* is usually anglicised as Gallie but in Bute people with this name adopted Gillies in English although the names are unrelated, *Gallach* having its origins in *Gall* meaning a non-Gael.

*MacIlliosa* is "son of the follower of Jesus", but some people calling themselves by that name today may originally have been *MacMhaoliosa*, "son of the devotee of Jesus", which is usually anglicised as Mellis or Mellish. *Gilios* is a gaelicisation of the English name. The Gillieses are known as *na Ghiliosaich* but in Argyll as *Clann an Lios*. See **Lees**.

**Gilliland** MacIllfhaolain  
See **Cleland**.

**Gilmartin** MacIllemhàrtainn  
See **Martin**.

**Gilmore, Gilmour** MacIllemhoire  
See **Morrison**.

**Gilnew** MacIllenaoimh  
(gen. *MhicIllenaoimh*; voc. *a MhicIllenaoimh*)  
"Son of the follower of the saint". This anglicisation is associated with Bute, as in most other areas *MacIllenaoimh* is anglicised as MacNiven or Niven.

**Gilroy** MacIlleruaidh  
(gen. *MhicIlleruaidh*; voc. *a MhicIlleruaidh*)  
"Son of the red-haired one". This name is also anglicised as MacIlroy, Milroy, Reid and Roy.

**Gilzean** MacIlleathain  
See **MacLean**.

**Glashan** MacGlaisein  
(gen. *MhicGlaisein*; voc. *a MhicGlaisein*)  
"Son of the grey one". *MacGlaisein* is also anglicised as Gray as well as MacGlashan.

**Glass** MacIlleghlais  
(gen. *MhicIlleghlais*; voc. *a MhicIlleghlais*)  
"Son of the grey one". *MacIlleghlais* is also anglicised as Gray.

**Gollach** Gollach  
(gen. *Ghollaich*; voc. *a Ghollaich*)  
"Caithness man". *Gollach* is a dialect spelling of *Gallach* which is usually anglicised as **Gallie**.

**Gordon** Gòrdan, Gòrdanach  
(gen. *Ghòrdain*, *Ghòrdanaich*; voc. *a Ghòrdanaich*)  
This was originally the name of a place in the Borders. The Gordons are known as *na Ghòrdanaich* (gen. *nan Ghòrdanach*; voc. *a Ghòrdanacha*) and their leader, called the Duke of Gordon in English, is *An Ghòrdanach (Mór)*, "the (Great) Gordon". The Gordon clan had branches in the Strathbogie area of Aberdeenshire but also in the Gaelic-speaking uplands of neighbouring Banffshire.

**Gove, Gow** Gobha, Mac a' Ghobhainn  
(gen. *Ghobha*, *Mhic a' Ghobhainn*; voc. *a Ghobhaich*, *a Mhic a' Ghobhainn*)  
*Gobha* is "smith" and *Mac a' Ghobhainn* means "son of the smith". *Mac a' Ghobhainn* is usually anglicised as MacGowan or Smith. The Goves and Gows are known as *na Gobhaich* (gen. *nan Gobhach*; voc. *a Ghobhacha*) but the Gows of Upper Banffshire are *Sliochd a' Ghobha Chruim*, "descendants of the hump-backed smith", referring to the *Gobha Crom* who features in Sir Walter Scott's novel 'The Fair Maid of Perth' and is commemorated in the placename *Leac a' Ghobhainn*, "the smith's slope", which is anglicised as the Lecht.

**Graham** Greum, Greumach, MacIllemhearnaig

(gen. *Ghreum, Ghreumaich, MhicIllemhearnaig*; voc. *a Ghreumaich, a Ghreumaich, a MhicIllemhearnaig*)

Graham is originally from an English place-name meaning "grey home" adapted to Gaelic. People called *MacIllemhearnaig*, "the son of the follower of my Earnan/Ernan or Earnag/Ernoc", adopted or were assigned the name of Graham in parts of south Perthshire. The Grahams are known as *na Greumaich* (gen. *nan Greumach*; voc. *a Ghreumacha*), but in Menteith as *Greumaich nan cearc*, "the Grahams of the hens", and the head of the Grahams, the Duke of Montrose in English, is *An Greumach (Mór)*, "the (Great) Graham".

**Grant** Grannd

(gen. *Ghrannd*; voc. *a Ghranndaich*)

This name was originally *grand* in French, meaning "great". The Grants are known as *na Granndaich* (gen. *nan Granndach*; voc. *a Ghranndacha*) or as *Granndaich na lite*, "the Grants of porridge". An interesting grouping of the Grants was *Sìol Liuthais*, "seed of Liuthas/Lewis", which comprised the Cherokee descendants of Lewis Grant of Crichton. The Grants in various areas had their own designations as in Cromdale where they were known as *Clann Chiarain*, "offspring of Ciaran/Kieran", and in Dunan where they were *Clann Ailein*, "offspring of Ailean/Alan". The Grants of Speyside or Tullochgorum were *Clann Phàdraig*, "offspring of Pàdraig/Patrick or Peter", while the Grants of Trochrie were known pejoratively as *Sliochd an Amair*, "the tribe of the chamber-pot". The chief of the Grants, the Earl of Seafield, is *An Granndach (Mór)*, "the (Great) Grant", while Grant of Glenmoriston is *Mac Phàdraig*, "son of Patrick or Peter". The heartland of the Grants is around *Baile Ùr nan Granndach*, "the new town of the Grants" or Grantown-on-Spey.

**Grassick, Grassie** Mac a' Ghreusaiche

(gen. *Mhic a' Ghreusaiche*; voc. *a Mhic a' Ghreusaiche*)

This occupational surname is "son of the cobbler".

**Gray** MacGlaisein, MacIlleghlais

(gen. *MhicGlaisein, MhicIlleghlais*; voc. *a MhicGlaisein, a MhicIlleghlais*)

Both Gaelic names mean "son of the grey one". *MacGlaisein* was anglicised as Gray and MacGlashan in Argyll, and as Glashan elsewhere. *MacIlleghlais* is also anglicised as Glass.

**Gregory** MacGriogair

See **MacGregor**.

**Grieve** Mac a' Ghréidheir

(gen. *Mhic a' Ghréidheir*; voc. *a Mhic a' Ghréidheir*)

"Son of the grieve or farm manager".

**Grigor** MacGriogair

See **MacGregor**.

**Grimmond** MacCruimein

See **MacCrimmon**.

**Gruer** Gruarach, Mac a' Ghrùdair

(gen. *Ghruaraich, Mhic a' Ghrùdair*; voc. *a Ghruaraich, a Mhic a' Ghrùdair*)

This occupational surname is "son of the brewer". Gruer and *Gruarach* are associated with Braemar where a saying refers to the hauteur of the Gruers: *Gruaraich na bòilich, A' suidhe aig na bòrdaibh*,

*A' cunntadh an òir is an airgid, 'S a' cur fàilte aig* (sic) *na h-uaislibh*, "The boastful Gruers, Sitting at tables, Counting their gold and silver, And greeting the nobility". *Mac a' Ghrùdair* is also anglicised as Brewster and MacGruther.

### **Gunn** Guinne, Gunnach

(gen. *Ghuinne, Ghunnaich*; voc. *a Ghuinnich, a Ghunnaich*)

This was originally a Norse personal name based on *Gunnar*, meaning "warrior", which was adopted as a family name in Gaelic and then English. The Gunns are known as *na Guinnich* or *na Gunnaich*, and Gunn of Braemore is *Mac Sheumais Chataich*, "son of Seumas/James of Sutherland".

### **Hardie** MacCardaidh

(gen. *MhicCardaidh*; voc. *a MhicCardaidh*)

Hardie has two origins, one being the French surname *Hardy*, meaning "bold, courageous" and the other a shortened form of MacHardie from *MacCardaidh* which is associated with Mar and Strathdon. *MacCardaidh* is thought to be based on the Pictish personal name *Gartnaigh* but the meaning is unclear.

### **Harper** Mac a' Chruiteir

(gen. *Mhic a' Chruiteir*; voc. *a Mhic a' Chruiteir*)

*Mac a' Chruiteir*, "son of the harpist", was anglicised as Harper in Galloway where it also occurs as MacWhirter.

### **Harrison** MacEanraig

See **Henderson**.

### **Hatton** MacIllechatain

(gen. *MhicIllechatain*; voc. *a MhicIllechatain*)

As a surname, Hatton can come from a place-name as in Aberdeenshire but in Kintyre it was, along with Hutton, an anglicisation of "son of the follower of saint Catan" which is rendered in English as MacIlhatton elsewhere, but which here shows the regular dropping of *MacIlle*.

### **Hay** MacGaraidh

(gen. *MhicGaraidh*; voc. *a MhicGaraidh*)

The English name comes from Normandy and derives from French *haie*, "hedge", of which *garadh*, "den or cave", was understood to be the Gaelic equivalent. The Hays are called *Clann Mhic Garaidh* and Hay of Hay is termed *Mac Garaidh Mór*, "the Great Hay". *Clann Mhic Garaidh* is unrelated to the name of the Garrows of Braemar, although similar in sound. See **Garrow**.

### **Henderson** MacEanraig

(gen. *MhicEanraig*; voc. *a MhicEanraig*)

"Son of Eanraig/Henry". The Gaelic name is also anglicised as Harrison which is formed from Harry, a diminutive of Henry, and also as Kendrick and MacKendrick which are useful examples of ghost names in that MacKendrick falsely appears to be "son of Kendrick" whereas the "K" of Kendrick is simply the *C* of *Mac* attached to *Eanraig* and not an initial "K" is its own right as in MacKenzie.

### **Hosier** MacIllethòmhais

(gen. *MhicIllethòmhais*; voc. *a MhicIllethòmhais*)

A hosier is a maker of stockings but *MacIllethòmhais* is "son of the follower of saint

Tòmhàs/Thomas". This Gaelic name is also anglicised as MacLehose and Mucklehose and is unrelated to Hosier in meaning, although the final element in Gaelic sounds quite similar to the first element in the English name given that Gaelic *th* is pronounced as an English "h".

**Huie** MacIlledhuibh

See **Black**.

**Humphrey** Umphraidh

(unchanged in gen. & voc.)

This name is of Teutonic origin, contains the word for "peace" and was the name of a Norman saint who travelled to England. The gaelicised name is linked to Deeside.

**Hutcheon** Haitsean

(gen. & voc. *Haitsein*)

*Haitsean* is a gaelicisation of the English name which in turn is an anglicisation of the French name *Huchon*, equivalent to Hugh and originally a first name.

**Hutcheson** MacÙisdein

(gen. *MhicÙisdein*; voc. *a MhicÙisdein*)

Hutcheson is a patronymic based on French *Huchon* as found in **Hutcheon**, while *MacÙisdein* is "son of Ùisdean/Hugh".

**Hutton** MacIllechatain

(gen. *MhicIllechatain*; voc. *a MhicIllechatain*)

Hutton as a surname can come from a place-name as in Berwickshire but in Kintyre it was, along with Hatton, an anglicisation of "son of the follower of saint Catan" which is rendered in English as MacIlhatton elsewhere but which here displays the regular dropping of *MacIlle*.

**Innes** MacAonghais

See **MacInnes**.

**Iverach, Ivory** Ìomharach

(gen. & voc. *Ìomharaich*)

This is an adjectival equivalent of *MacÌomhair*, "son of Ìomhar/Ívarr".

**Jamieson** MacSheumais, MacShimidh

(gen. *MhicSheumais*, *MhicShimidh*; voc. *a MhicSheumais*, *a MhicShimidh*)

*MacSheumais*, "son of Seumas/James", was anglicised as Jamieson in Bute originally, while *MacShimidh*, "son of Simidh/Simon", is also found as MacKimmie and Sim.

**Johnson, Johnstone** MacIain

(gen. *MhicIain*; voc. *a MhicIain*)

*MacIain*, "son of John", is also anglicised as Kean and MacKean where the *C* of *Mac* has been reinterpreted as part of the first name forming the patronymic. Johnstone was also gaelicised as *Seonstanach* (gen. *Sheonstanaich*; voc. *a Sheonstanaich*).

**Jorrie** Mac an Deòraidh

(gen. *Mhic an Deòraidh*; voc. *a Mhic an Deòraidh*)

"Son of the pilgrim". This name was found along with MacJarrow in Galloway and is related in meaning to **Dewar**, MacIndeor and **MacLure**.



**Kay** MacAoidh  
See **MacKay**.

**Kean** MacIain  
See **Johnson**.

**Keegan** MacAodhagain  
See **MacKeegan**.

**Keenan** MacCianain  
(gen. *MhicCianain*; voc. *a MhicCianain*)  
This surname found in Ayrshire and Galloway is "son of Cìanan", the diminutive of a first name meaning "ancient".

**Keir** MacIllechiar  
(gen. *MhicIllechiar*; voc. *a MhicIllechiar*)  
The English name is a much-reduced version of the Gaelic original which is "son of the dark(-haired) one".

**Keith** Càidh, Céiteach, MacShithich  
(gen. *Chàidh*, *Chéitich*, *MhicShithich*; voc. *a Chàidhich*, *a Chéitich*, *a MhicShithich*)  
In some cases the English name can be traced back to the district of Keith in the Lothians but Keith also represents the anglicisation of a number of Gaelic names such as *Càidh* which was also anglicised as **Caie** in some areas. *MacShithich*, "son of Sitheach", is associated with Moray and by retaining only the *C* of *Mac* and with the Gaelic pronunciation of *sh* and *th*, could sound similar to Keith. *MacShithich* is also anglicised as *Shiach*, here losing *Mac* entirely. *Céiteach* may be a gaelicisation of the English name.

**Kelly** MacCeallaigh  
(gen. *MhicCeallaigh*; voc. *a MhicCeallaigh*)  
Many people called Kelly can trace their name to a variety of places in several areas such as Angus, Fife and Renfrewshire. However, in Galloway and Argyll the name is from "son of Ceallach" which is said to mean "warlike one" but could alternatively contain *cill*, "church". In Galloway the name was first anglicised as MacKelly but most bearers of the name changed it to Kelly or MacCulloch.

**Kelso** Caolaisdean  
(gen. *Chaolaidein*; voc. *a Chaolaisdein*)  
This name originates in the name of the town in Roxburghshire and was gaelicised as *Caolaisdean* in Arran where people of this name had settled.

**Kemp** Cèamp, Cèampach  
(gen. *Chèamp*; voc. *a Chèampaich*)  
Kemp is believed to be a Norse or English name meaning "warrior" or "champion". The gaelicised forms were used in Wester Ross.

**Kendrick** MacEanraig  
See **Henderson**.

**Kennedy** Ceanadach, MacCnusachainn, MacCuaraig, MacRusachainn, MacUalraig, MacUaraig  
(gen. *Cheanadaich*, *MhicCnusachainn*, *MhicCuaraig*, *MhicRusachainn*, *MhicUalraig*, *MhicUaraig*;

voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

Kennedy is an anglicisation of *Ceanadach* which derives from Middle Gaelic *cendétig*, "grim headed", and is most closely associated with Carrick and Galloway where an earlier form was *MacCinneide*. People in Arran called Kennedy were known in Gaelic as *MacCnusachainn* and *MacRusachainn* relating to the founding fathers of septs of the clan although these names are now obscure as to origin. In the north of the country people called Kennedy are known in Gaelic as *MacUalraig* or its variants *MacCuarraig* and *MacUaraig* because they trace their ancestry to a Walrick Kennedy or *Ualraig Ceanadach* who settled in Lochaber from Ayrshire. The Kennedys are known in general as *na Ceanadaich* but in Lochaber as *Clann MhicUalraig*, "offspring of MacUalraig".

**Kerr** Carra, Carrach, Cearrach

(gen. *Charra*, *Charraich*, *Chearraich*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

Kerr is associated with the Borders and is said to have come from the name of a place, possibly Carr in Lancashire, England. The first two Gaelic forms appear to be simply gaelicisations of Carr and Kerr but see also **Keir**. *Cearrach* may be a Gaelic name or a nickname originally based on *ceàrr* which can mean "left-handed".

**Kerracher** MacFhearchair

See **Farquhar**.

**Kessock** MacCeasaig

See **MacKessack**.

**Kesson** MacCeasain

(gen. *MhicCeasain*; voc. *a MhicCeasain*)

"Son of Ceasan", a personal name which appears to be a variant of *Ceasag* or Kessock.

**Kindness** MacAonghais

See **MacInnes**.

**Kynoch** MacCoinnich

See **MacKenzie**.

**Laing, Lang** O Luingeachain

(unchanged in gen. & voc.)

*O Luingeachain*, "descendant of Longachan" which is a name that may be connected to ships, was anglicised as Laing and Lang in Argyll, but *O Luingeachain* is unrelated to them as they represent the adjective "long" in Scots. The name *O Luingeachain* is found more commonly in Ireland where it is anglicised as Lenihan and Linehan but in Scotland also as Loynachan.

**Lamond, Lamont** Làman, MacLaomainn

(gen. *Làmain*, *MhicLaomainn*; voc. *a Làmanaich*, *a MhicLaomainn*)

*MacLaomainn* is "son of Laghmann", a Norse personal name based on "law man". *Làman* is a gaelicisation of the English name, and *MacLaomainn* is also anglicised as MacClement, MacClymont and MacLeman. The Lamonts are known as *Clann Laomainn*, "offspring of Laghmann", with the chief being simply *Mac Laomainn*.

**Landsborough, Landsburgh** MacLamraich

(gen. *MhicLamraich*; voc. *a MhicLamraich*)

The two spellings of the English name may have their origin in a place that no longer exists, possibly in England. The Gaelic name is a patronymic but the personal name forming its basis is unclear and no longer in use. *MacLamraich* is associated with Kintyre and Galloway, and interestingly there is a Lambroughton and Lambroughton Loch in north Ayrshire which appears to contain *Lamrach*.

**Lang** O Luingeachain

See **Laing**.

**Larnach** Latharnach

(gen. *Latharnaich*, voc. *a Latharnaich*)

This adjectival name means "person from *Latharna*/Lorn".

**Lees** Lìos, Mac a' Lìos, MacIllìosa

(gen. *Lìos*, *Mhic a' Lìos*, *MhicIllìosa*; voc. *a Lìosaich*, *a Mhic a' Lìos*, *a MhicIllìosa*)

*Lìos* was found in Arran and along with *Mac a' Lìos* is a simplified form of *MacIllìosa* which is "son of the follower of Jesus". See **Gillies**.

**Leitch** Léigheach

(gen. *Léighich*; voc. *a Léighich*)

Leitch is an English occupational name referring to a doctor, while *Léigheach* is an adjectival name with the same meaning, originating in *lighiche* or *léigh*, "leech". People in Argyll called *Léigheach* had their name anglicised as Leitch but not all people called Leitch can derive their name from the Gaelic one, given that Leitch was widely used beyond Argyll and the Gaelic-speaking areas of the country.

**Lennie** Mac an Làmhach

(gen. *Mhic an Làmhach*; voc. *a Mhic an Làmhach*)

The English name originates from Leny or *Lànaigh* near Callander, but people of this name in Orkney may derive it from either Linay on mainland Orkney or on North Ronaldsay. The Gaelic name seems to be a corruption of a term related to *Lànaigh*. The chief of the Lennies, Lennie of that Ilk, is simply *Mac an Làmhach*.

**Lennox** Leamhnach

(gen. *Leamhnaich*; voc. *a Leamhnaich*)

This Gaelic adjectival surname means "person from *Leamhnachd*/Lennox", an originally Gaelic district name apparently containing *leamhan* denoting an elm tree.

**Leslie** Mac an Fhléisteir

(gen. *Mhic an Fhléisteir*; voc. *a Mhic an Fhléisteir*)

Leslie comes from the name of a place in Aberdeenshire adopted as a surname but *Mac an Fhléisteir* is "son of the fletcher or arrowmaker". Although the Gaelic and English names are unrelated in meaning, *Mac an Fhléisteir* may have been anglicised as Leslie because Gaelic *Fh* is silent meaning that the *Fhléis-* part of the Gaelic name sounds similar to the "Les-" part of the English one, and as Lister because *Fhléisteir* sounds quite like "Lister". Usually *Mac an Fhléisteir* is anglicised as Fletcher.

**Lindsay** MacIllfhionndaig

(gen. *MhicIllfhionndaig*; voc. *a MhicIllfhionndaig*)

In Argyll *MacIllfhionndaig* was anglicised as Lindsay although the two names are quite separate.

*MacIllfhionndaig* is "son of the follower of saint Fionndag/Fintan" while Lindsay is a place in England. The names may have become linked because the *-llfhionn-* part of the Gaelic name sounds quite like the "Lin-" part of the English one. This may sound like a tenuous explanation, but the *Mac* part of Gaelic patronymics was regularly dropped altogether or reduced to *c* as in **Clinton**.

### **Linton**

Most people with this surname can trace it back to East or West Linton in the Lothians denoting places where flax was grown, but a small number might derive it from *MacIllfhionndain*. See **Clinton**.

**Lister** Mac an Fhléisteir  
See **Leslie**.

### **Littlejohn** Mac Iain Bhig

(gen. *Mhic Iain Bhig*; voc. *a Mhic Iain Bhig*)

The Gaelic name is "son of little Iain/John" and occurred in Braemar where it was translated as Littlejohn, losing the *Mac* element.

### **Littleson** MacBhigein, MacFigeinn

(gen. *MhicBhigein*, *MacFigeinn*; voc. *a MhicBhigein*, *a MhicFigeinn*)

This name is linked with Kintyre and is understood to be from a nickname based on *bigein* meaning something or someone small, often a very small bird. The Gaelic names are also anglicised as MacFigan.

### **Livingstone** Mac an Léigh, MacDhùnshléibhe

(gen. *Mhic an Léigh*, *MhicDhùnshléibhe*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

Livingstone comes from the name of the town in West Lothian, but was also used as the anglicisation of *Mac an Léigh*, "son of the doctor", in Argyll and of *MacDhùnshléibhe*, "son of the brown one of the mountain", linked mainly with Islay, , these names falling together because of the similarity in sound of the syllables *Léigh*, *-shléibhe* and *Liv-*. *Mac an Léigh* is also anglicised as MacLeay and the Livingstones or MacLeays of Appin and Mid Argyll are known as *na Léighich*, "the doctor people", some of whom adopted Leitch as their official English surname. *MacDhùnshléibhe* is also anglicised as Conlay in Kintyre and Dunleavy more widely.

### **Logan** Loganach

(gen. *Loganaich*; voc. *a Loganaich*)

This is a place-name in Ayrshire from *lagan*, "a hollow", taken over as a surname in English then used with an adjectival ending in Gaelic to denote a person belonging to that place. The Logans are known as *Siol Loganaich*, "seed of Logan".

### **Lonie** MacIllonfhaidh

(gen. *MhicIllonfhaidh*; voc. *a MhicIllonfhaidh*)

"Son of the storm", also anglicised as MacAlonie and MacGillonie.

### **Lothian** Lobhdain, Loudain

(gen. unchanged; voc. *a* goes before the name)

This name stems from the region of Lothian and was gaelicised as *Lobhdain* and *Loudain* especially in north Perthshire to where the Gaelic poet and theologian *Donnchadh Loudain* belonged.

### **Love** MacIonmhainn

(gen. *MhicIonmhainn*; voc. *a MhicIonmhainn*)

In Kintyre *MacIonmhainn*, "son of the beloved one", was anglicised as Love which is an Ayrshire name. Usually *MacIonmhainn* was anglicised as MacKinven, but several families with this name may have altered it to the simpler MacKinnon which is unrelated to it.

**Loynachan** O Luingeachain

See **Laing**.

**Luke** MacLùcais

(gen. *MhicLùcais*; voc. *a MhicLùcais*)

"Son of Lùcas/Luke", which is also anglicised as Douglas, MacDougall, MacLucas and MacLugash.

**MacAdam** MacÀdhaimh

(gen. *MhicÀdhaimh*; voc. *a MhicÀdhaimh*)

"Son of Àdhamh/Adam". *MacÀdhaimh* is also anglicised as Adam, Adamson, Caw in Bute and Galloway, Eason in Angus, Esson in Angus and Glen Tilt, MacCaw, MacKay and MacKeggie. These anglicisations show a range of features, including the attachment of the *C* of *Mac* to *Àdhaimh* to form a ghost name and its reduction to a monosyllable. *MacÀdhaimh* may also be the origin of the Aberdeenshire name Eggo which is *Ciogach* in Gaelic.

**MacAdie** MacÀdaidh, MacÀididh

(gen. *MhicÀdaidh*, *MhicÀididh*; voc. *a MhicÀdaidh*, *a MhicÀididh*)

"Son of Àdaidh or Àididh/Adie or little Adam". In Easter Ross *MacÀdaidh* was sometimes anglicised as Munro due to the prevalence of the latter in the area.

**MacAffer** MacCathbharra

(gen. *MhicCathbharra*; voc. *a MhicCathbharra*)

"Son of Cathbharr" a personal name no longer in use which means "battle head" whence "helmet". This name is associated with Islay.

**MacAffie** MacCathbhaidh, MacIlleathbhaidh

"Son of Cathbhadh" and "son of the follower of saint Cathbhadh", a personal name no longer in use meaning "battle tent". The name was originally *MacIlleathbhaidh* then shortened to *MacCathbhaidh* although old anglicised versions of the longer name are to be found in historical documents. The name is associated with Galloway.

**MacAinsh** MacAonghais

See **MacInnes**.

**MacAlexander** MacAlasdair

See **MacAllister**.

**MacAll** MacCathail

See **Auld**.

**MacAllan** MacAilein

See **Allan**.

**MacAllay**, **MacAlley** MacAmhalghaidh, MacAmhlaigh

See **MacAulay**

**MacAllister** MacAlasdair

(gen. *MhicAlasdair*; voc. *a MhicAlasdair*)

"Son of Alasdair/Alexander". This surname is also anglicised as Alexander and Callister, the latter showing the transference of *C* from *Mac* to *Alasdair*, and in Galloway as MacAlexander. The MacAllisters in general are known as *Clann Alasdair*, "offspring of Alexander", but in north Sutherland as *na Calasdraich*, "the (Ma)callisters". The MacAllisters of Loup in Perthshire were *Clann Eòin Duibh*, "offspring of black(-haired) Eòin/Jonathan".

**MacAlonie** MacIllonfhaidh

See **Lonie**.

**MacAlpine** MacAilpein

(gen. *MhicAilpein*; voc. *a MhicAilpein*)

"Son of Ailpean/Alpin". The MacAlpines were known as *Sìol Ailpein*, "seed of Alpin" or simply *na h-Ailpeanaich*. A saying from Islay illustrates how the MacAlpines were considered a very ancient clan, *Cnuic is uillt is Ailpeinich, ach cuin a thàinig Artaraich?*, "Hills and burns and MacAlpines, but when did the MacArthurs arrive?". There was a wider *Sìol Ailpein* comprising clans who also claimed the original Ailpean as progenitor, namely the Grants, MacAulays, MacFies, MacGregors, MacKinnons, MacNabs and MacQuarries.

**MacAndie** MacAnndaidh, MacShanndaidh

(gen. *MhicAnndaidh*, *MhicShanndaidh*; voc. *a MhicAnndaidh*, *a MhicShanndaidh*)

*MacAnndaidh*, a name associated with Berneray Harris, is said to stem from a Norse personal name *Andi*, and in Berneray these families were known collectively as *Clann MhicAnndaidh*, "offspring of the son of Andi". *MacShanndaidh* is "son of Sandy", one of several Gaelic patronymics based on a Scots personal name and showing how Gaelic *sh* pronounced the same as English "h" has led to *MacAnndaidh* and *MacShanndaidh* falling together in their anglicised form.

**MacAndrew** MacAnndra, MacAnndrais, MacIllanndrais

(gen. *MhicAnndra*, *MhicAnndrais*, *MhicIllanndrais*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

*MacAnndra* is also anglicised as Andrew, and together with *MacAnndrais* is derived from "son of Anndra or Anndrais/Andrew". *MacIllanndrais*, "son of the follower of saint Andrew", becomes both Anderson and Gillanders in English.

**MacAngus** Canghaiseach, MacAonghais

(gen. *Changhaisich*, *MhicAonghais*; voc. *a Changhaisich*, *a MhicAonghais*)

"Son of Aonghas/Angus". The name *Canghaiseach*, showing an initial *C* transferred from Mac, occurred in Easter Ross, where the bearers of the name were known collectively as *na Canghaisich*. See **MacInnes**.

**MacAra** MacAbhra, MacAra

(gen. *MhicAbhra*, *MhicAra*; voc. *a MhicAbhra*, *a MhicAra*)

"Son of the charioteer". This name is associated mainly with south and west Perthshire although there is a village called *Baile Mac Ara* or Balmacara in Lochalsh.

**MacArdle** MacÀrdghail

See **Cardle**.

**MacArthur** MacArtain, MacArtair

(gen. *MhicArtain, MhicArtair*; voc. *a MhicArtain, a MhicArtair*)

"Son of Artair/Arthur" in most cases, but *MacArtain* was found in Skye and this may be a different name based on a diminutive of the name *Art*. The MacArthurs are known as *na h-Artaraich* and feature in a saying which seems to cast doubt on their antiquity, *Cnuic is uillt is Ailpeinich, ach cuin a thàinig Artaraich?*, "Hills and burns and MacAlpines, but when did the MacArthurs arrive?". MacArthurs fulfilled the role of hereditary pipers to MacDonald of the Isles.

**MacAskie** MacAsgaidh

See **Caskie**.

**MacAskill** MacAsgaill

(gen. *MhicAsgaill*; vic. *a MhicAsgaill*)

"Son of **Asgall**/Asketil", a Norse personal name. The MacAskills are known as *Clann t-Asgaill* or *Clann Tasgaill*, "offspring of Asketil" but in Easter Ross were called *na Casgailich* and in north Sutherland *na Casgallaich*, both names meaning "the MacAskills", and showing a prothetic *C* transferred from *Mac*.

**MacAskin** MacAsgain, MacCaisgein

(gen. *MhicAsgain, MhicCaisgein*; voc. *a MhicAsgain, a MhicCaisgein*)

This may simply be a variation on **MacAskill**.

**MacAughtrie** MacUchtraigh

(gen. *MhicUchtraigh*; voc. *a MhicUchtraigh*)

"Son of *Uchtrach*/Uchtred", a first name no longer in use meaning "courage". In Cowal *MacUchtraigh* was also anglicised as Ochiltree, although the Gaelic name is not related to the name of the place in Ayrshire. Originally *MacUchtraigh* was a Galloway name which spread to Cowal.

**MacAulay, MacAuley** MacAmhalghaidh, MacAmhlaigh

(gen. *MhicAmhalghaidh, MhicAmhlaigh*; voc. *a MhicAmhalghaidh, a MhicAmhlaigh*)

*MacAmhalghaidh*, "son of Amhalghaidh", is associated with southern Scotland, while *MacAmhlaigh*, "son of Amhlaigh/Olafr", is commonly found in the north-west and contains a Norse personal name. The MacAulays of Ardencaple near Rhu in Dunbartonshire were known as *Clann Amhlaoibh* showing an unusual spelling and possibly deriving from *MacAmhalghaidh*. The Gaelic names are also anglicised as MacAllay and MacAlley.

**MacAuslan** MacAbhsalain.

See **Buchanan**.

**MacBain** MacBheathain, MacIllebhàin

(gen. *MhicBheathain, MhicIllebhàin*; voc. *a MhicBheathain, a MhicIllebhàin*)

*MacBheathain*, "son of **Beathan**/Bean", is also found as MacBean and MacVean, and *MacIllebhàin*, "son of the fair-haired one", is also anglicised as Bain, Bayne and Whyte.

**MacBaxter** Mac a' Bhacastair

See **Baxter**.

**MacBean** MacBheathain, MacMhaolbheatha

(gen. *MhicBheathain, MhicMhaolbheatha*; voc. *a MhicBheathain, a MhicMhaolbheatha*)

See **MacBain**. The name *MacMhaolbheatha*, "son of the devotee of Beatha", is closely associated

with the Alvie area of Strathspey where the name was anglicised as MacBean and where the MacBeans were known as *Clann Mhaolbheatha*, "offspring of Maolbheatha". Elsewhere the MacBeans were known as *Clann Bheathain*, "offspring of **Beathan**".

**MacBeath, MacBeth, MacBey** MacBeatha, MacBeathag, MacBheathaig  
(gen. *MhicBeatha, MhicBeathag, MhicBheathaig*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)  
*MacBeatha*, "son of life", is anglicised as MacBeath, MacBeth and MacBey and occurs widely, sometimes in the form *MacBheatha* which is anglicised as MacVeigh and MacVey. *MacBeathag* and *MacBheathaig* are forms of the name found in Wester Ross. See **MacBeatha** in Section 5.

**MacBirnie** MacBhraonaigh  
See **Burnie**.

**MacBlane** MacIllebhhlàthain  
(gen. *MhicIllebhhlàthain*; voc. *a MhicIllebhhlàthain*)  
"Son of the follower of saint Blàthan/Blane". This English name was found in Galloway but usually it is anglicised as **Blain** or Blane.

**MacBratney** Mac a' Bhreatannaich  
See **Braithnoch**.

**MacBrayne** Mac a' Bhriuthainn  
(gen. *Mhic a' Bhriuthainn*; voc. *a Mhic a' Bhriuthainn*)  
"Son of the judge", from *britheamh*. This name is also anglicised as Brown in Argyll.

**MacBridan** MacBhighdeinn, MacFrìdeinn, MacRìdeinn  
See **Bryden**.

**MacBryde** MacIllebrìghde  
(gen. *MhicIllebrìghde*; voc. *a MhicIllebrìghde*)  
"Son of the follower of saint Brìghde/Bridget".

**MacBurnie** MacBhraonaigh  
See **Burnie**.

**MacCabe** MacCàba, MacCaibe  
(gen. *MhicCàba, MhicCaibe*; voc. *a MhicCàba, a MhicCaibe*)  
"Son of Càba", a first name which is unclear. The name originated in Arran whence several bearers of the name emigrated to Ireland where it is now more common.

**MacCaffie** MacCathbhaidh, MacIllechathbhaidh  
See **MacAffie**.

**MacCaig** MacCaoig, MacThaidhg  
See **Caig**.

**MacCail, MacCall** MacCathail  
See **Auld**.

**MacCallum** MacCaluim, MacIllechalum



(gen. *MhicCaluim*, *MhicIllechalum*)

"Son of Calum/Malcolm" and "son of the follower of saint Calum", the latter possibly referring to Columba.

**MacCalman** MacCalmain

See **Dove**. In Lorn the MacCalmans were known as *Clann Rùsgain*, "offspring of the tanner", referring to their occupation as peelers of tree bark used in the tanning of hides.

**MacCambridge** MacAmbrais

See **Cambridge**.

**MacCance** MacAonghais

See **MacInnes**.

**MacCandlish** MacCuinnleis

See **Candlish**.

**MacCardle** MacÀrdghail

See **Cardle**.

**MacCarthy** MacCathachaidh

(gen. *MhicCathachaidh*; voc. *a MhicCathachaidh*)

MacCarthy in Scotland is not the same as the Irish name, at least in its current form, but is based on a personal name containing *cath* meaning "battle". *MacCathachaidh* is linked to the Arisaig and Moidart areas in particular.

**MacCartney** MacArtain

(gen. *MhicArtain*; voc. *a MhicArtain*)

"Son of Artan" which appears to be a diminutive of *Art*. In Skye, *MacArtain* was anglicised as MacArthur.

**MacCaskie** MacAsgaidh

See **Caskie**.

**MacCavish** MacThàmhais

(gen. *MhicThàmais*, *MhicThàmhais*; voc. *a MhicThàmais*, *a MhicThàmhais*)

"Son of Tàmhas/Thomas". This anglicisation was found in Bute, but *MacThàmhais* is usually anglicised as MacTavish or Tawse.

**MacCaw** MacÀdhaimh

See **Adam**.

**MacCheyne** MacIllesheathain

(gen. *MhicIllesheathain*; voc. *a MhicIllesheathain*)

"Son of the follower of saint Seathan/John". This name is associated with Argyll.

**MacChrystal** MacCrisdeil, MacCrisdein

See **Chrystal**.

**MacClanachan** MacIllonchon

See **Clanachan**.

**MacClelland** MacIllfhaolain

See **MacLellan**.

**MacClement** MacLaomainn

See **Lamont**.

**MacClery** Mac a' Chléirich

See **Clark**.

**MacClew** MacLughaidh

See **Fullarton**.

**MacClintock** MacIllfhionndaig

See **Lindsay**.

**MacCloy** MacLothaidh, MacLughaidh

See **Fullarton**.

**MacClumpha** MacIlliomchadha

(gen. *MhicIlliomchadha*; voc. *a MhicIlliomchadha*)

"Son of the follower of saint Iomchadh", a personal name no longer current but the basis of this patronymic which is associated with Galloway and Dumfries-shire.

**MacClung** MacLuinge

(gen. *MhicLuinge*; voc. *a MhicLuinge*)

"Son of the ship", presumably referring to a mariner. This name was associated with Ayrshire and Galloway.

**MacClure** Mac a' Leòra, MacIlldheòra, MacIlluidhir, MacLeòir

(gen. *Mhic a' Leòra*, *MhicIlldheòra*, *MhicIlluidhir*, *MhicLeòir*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

*Mac a' Leòra* and *MacLeòir* are simplified forms of *MacIlldheòra* all of which are "son of the follower of the pilgrim", and are associated with Sleat in Skye, and close to *Mac an Deòir* and *Mac an Deòraidh* for which see **Dewar** and **Jorrie**. *MacIlluidhir*, while sounding similar, is "son of the dun-coloured one", from *odhar*; gen *uidhir*, and is the probable derivation of MacClure and MacLure outwith Skye.

**MacClymont** MacLaomainn

See **Lamont**.

**MacCodrum** MacCodrum

(gen. *MhicCodrum*; voc. *a MhicCodrum*)

"Son of Gutormr or Godormr", a Norse personal name meaning "good serpent" or "god serpent".

The MacCodrums are known as *Clann MhicCodrum nan Ròn*, "the MacCodrums of the seals", and *Sliochd nan Ròn*, "descendants of the seals", because of the many tales of members of these families being seal-people.

**MacColl** MacColla

(gen. *MhicColla*; voc. *a MhicColla*)

"Son of Colla/Coll". The MacColls were known as *Sliochd nan Collaidh Làmh-dhearg*, "descendants of the red-handed Colls".

**MacComb** MacThom

See **Combe**.

**MacCombie** Mac a' Chombaich, MacThomaidh

(gen. *Mhic a' Chombaich*, *MhicThomaidh*; voc. *a Mhic a' Chombaich*, *a MhicThomaidh*)

*MacThomaidh*, "son of Tomaidh/Tommy", was the original form of the name which developed into *Mac a' Chombaich* which is anglicised as MacCombie and associated with Perthshire, most especially Glenshee. Separately, *Mac a' Chombaich* is also anglicised as Colquhon and linked to the Loch Lomond area.

**MacComiskey** MacCumasaigh

See **Comiskey**.

**MacConnachie** MacDhonnchaidh

See **Robertson**.

**MacConnell** MacConaill, MacConghail, MacDhòmhnaill

(gen. *MhicConaill*, *MhicConghail*, *MhicDhòmhnaill*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

Three separate patronymics in Gaelic have been anglicised as MacConnell, formed by the first names *Conall*, *Conghail* and *Dòmhnall*. See **Connel** and **Donald**.

**MacCook** MacCuaig, MacCùga

(gen. *MhicCuaig*, *MhicCùga*; voc. *a MhicCuaig*, *a MhicCùga*)

The two Gaelic names both anglicised as MacCook are from different sources. *MacCuaig* is found in Islay and was originally *MacDhubhaig*, "son of the black(-haired) one", while *MacCùga* is associated with Arran and Kintyre where it is believed to be an adaptation of the occupational surname Cook. See **Cook** and **MacCuaig**.

**MacCorkill** MacThorcaill

(gen. *MhicThorcaill*; voc. *a MhicThorcaill*)

"Son of Torcall or Torcuil", a Norse personal name and simplification of *Thorkettil* which forms the basis of **MacCorkindale**.

**MacCorkindale**, **MacCorquodale** MacCorcadail, MacThorcadail

(gen. *MhicCorcadail*, *MhicThorcadail*; voc. *a MhicCorcadail*, *a MhicThorcadail*)

"Son of Thorkettil", a Norse personal name which has also become simplified as shown in **MacCorkill**.

**MacCormack**, **MacCormick** MacCarraig

See **Cormack**.

**MacCosham**, **MacCoshin** MacCòiseim

(gen. *MhicCòiseim*; voc. *a MhicCòiseim*)

"Son of Còiseam/Constantine". The anglicised form MacCoshin is associated with Islay. See **MacDonald**.

**MacCoskrie** MacCosgraigh

(gen. *MhicCosgraigh*; voc. *a MhicCosgraigh*)

"Son of Cosgrach", a name no longer used meaning "victorious". See **Cosgrach** in Section 5.

**MacCowan** Còmhain, MacCòmhain, MacComhghain, MacIllechòmhain, MacIllechomhghain  
See **Cowan**.

**MacCracken** MacFhraingein, MacNeachdain

(gen. *MhicFhraingein*, *MhicNeachdain*; voc. *a MhicFhraingein*, *a MhicNeachdain*)

Two separate Gaelic names have been anglicised as MacCracken, *MacFhraingein* which is "son of Fraingean/Francis" and is also anglicised as Rankin, and *MacNeachdain* which is "son of Neachdan/Nechtán" and usually anglicised as MacNaughton.

**MacCrain** MacCrain

(gen. *MhicCrain*; voc. *a MhicCrain*)

"Son of the sow", from *cràin*, "sow, ugly old woman". This unusual name is associated with Jura.

**MacCreadie** MacRiada

(gen. *MhicRiada*; voc. *a MhicRiada*)

"Son of Riada", a personal name no longer in use but found in the name of *Dal Riada*, the initial territory of the Scots in what is now Argyll. The name *Riada* is thought to mean "taught" or "trained".

**MacCrimmon** MacCruimein

(gen. *MhicCruimein*; voc. *a MhicCruimein*)

"Son of Hrömundr", a Norse personal name meaning "famous protector". The MacCrimmons of Duirinish in Skye were the hereditary pipers to MacLeod of Dunvegan and are commemorated in the song *Cha till MacCruimein*, "MacCrimmon will not return". In some instances MacCrimmon may represent an anglicisation of *MacCriomthainn*, "son of Criomthann". See **Criomthann**. In Perthshire these names were anglicised as Grimmond.

**MacCrindle** MacRaghnaill

See **MacRaidl**.

**MacCrie** MacRaoiridh

(gen. *MhicRaoiridh*; voc. *a MhicRaoiridh*)

These names are Galloway variants of **MacRory** and *MacRuairidh*, the anglicised form showing a prothetic *C* carried over from *Mac*.

**MacCrone** MacCròin

(gen. *MhicCròin*; voc. *a MhicCròin*)

"Son of the swarthy one", from *cròn*. This name is associated mainly with Dumfries-shire but was also found in Argyll.

**MacCrossan** Mac a' Chrosain, MacCrosain

See **Crossan**.

**MacCrum** Mac a' Chruim

(gen. *Mhic a' Chruim*; voc. *a Mhic a' Chruim*)

"Son of the bent one", from *crom*. This name was found in Islay and north Argyll and is related but

not identical to **Crum**.

**MacCrutten** MacCruitein

(gen. *MhicCruitein*; voc. *a MhicCruitein*)

"Son of the hunchback", from *cruitean*. This name is associated with Jura and may have originated as a nickname.

**MacCuaig** MacCuaig, MacDhubhaig

(gen. *MhicCuaig*, *MhicDhubhaig*; voc. *a MhicCuaig*, *a MhicDhubhaig*)

*MacDhubhaig*, "son of the black(-haired) one", is the original form of the name which has become simplified as *MacCuaig*, sometimes anglicised as **Cook** and **MacCook** and associated with Islay.

**MacCubbin** MacGiobain

See **Cubbin**.

**MacCuish** MacCumhais, MacCuthais

(gen. *MhicCumhais*, *MhicCuthais*; voc. *a MhicCumhais*, *a MhicCuthais*)

It is unclear what personal name forms the patronymic here although several theories exist, one of which traces the *Cumhais/Cuthais* part back to *Colla Uais*, a fourth century high king of Ireland banished in Scotland. Another theory suggests the name may be related to *Dubhshìth*. See

**MacPhee**.

**MacCulloch** MacCullaich, MacLulaich

(gen. *MhicCullaich*, *MhicLulaich*; voc. *a MhicCullaich*, *a MhicLulaich*)

MacCulloch is mainly associated with Galloway and Argyll, and in the former stems from *MacCullaich*, "son of the boar" from *cullach*, although several families originally called *MacCeallaigh* or MacKelly may have changed their name to MacCulloch. In Argyll several families called *MacLulaich*, "son of Lulach", adopted MacCulloch rather than MacLullich as the anglicised form of their name. The MacLullichs are *Clann Lulaich*, "offspring of Lulach", poetically known as *Clann Lulaich o thulaich Mhaodain*, "the MacLullichs from the hill of Maodan", possibly referring to St Modan who is associated with Glendaruel in Cowal.

**MacCurdy** MacMhuirheartaich, MacMhurardaich, MacUrardaigh

See **MacKirdie**.

**MacCurley** MacShomhairle

See **MacSorley**.

**MacCurrie** MacMhuirich, MacUirigh

See **Currie**.

**MacCutcheon** MacHaistein, MacÙisdein

(gen. *MhicHaistein*, *MhicÙisdein*; voc. *a MhicHaistein*, *a MhicÙisdein*)

*MacHaistein* was found in Galloway and represents "son of Haitsean/Hutcheon" whereas *MacÙisdein*, "son of Ùisdean/Hugh", is also often anglicised as Hutcheson. See **Hutcheon** and **Hutcheson**.

**MacDermid**, **MacDiarmid** MacDhiarmaid

(gen. *MhicDhiarmaid*; voc. *a MhicDhiarmaid*)

"Son of Diarmaid/Dermott".

**MacDonald** Dòmhnallach, MacCòiseim, MacCuidhein, MacCuithein, MacDhòmhnaill, MacIlledhonaghart, MacSiridh, MacTiridh, Tarail

(gen. *Dhòmhallaich*, *MhicCòiseim*, *MhicCuidhein*, *MhicCuithein*, *MhicDhòmhnaill*, *MhicIlledhonaghart*, *MhicSiridh*, *MhicTiridh*, *Tharail*; voc. a *Dhòmhallaich*, a *MhicCòiseim*, a *MhicCuidhein*, a *MhicCuithein*, a *MhicDhòmhnaill*, a *MhicIlledhonaghart*, a *MhicSiridh*, a *MhicTiridh*, a *Tharail*)

*Dòmhnallach* is an adjectival name referring to anyone called MacDonald, while *MacDhòmhnaill*, "son of Dòmhnall/Donald" is the usual name. However in certain areas, people with different names were assigned MacDonald in English. *MacCòiseim*, "son of Còiseam/Constantine", was found in the Dunvegan area of Skye while *MacCuidhein*, "son of Aoidhean/little Hugh", was current in Wester Ross and *MacCuithein* in Trotternish in northern Skye. Likewise, in Benderloch in Argyll people called *MacIlledhonaghart*, the final element of which is unclear, had their name anglicised as MacDonald. In Mull some families linked to MacDonalds and also to MacKinnons used the names *MacSiridh* and *MacTiridh*, "son of Searrach" possibly meaning "foal", which can be anglicised as MacSherry. In the fishing areas of Easter Ross some MacDonald families used and were called by the tee-name *Tarail* which refers to a small settlement near Portmahomack. Tee-names were also common in the fishing areas of Banffshire where a limited number of official surnames were found and where specific families adopted different but unofficial names to distinguish themselves from other families with the same official surname. The MacDonalds as a whole are called *Clann Dòmhnail*, "offspring of Donald", or *na Dòmhnallaich*, but also as *na Cuidheanaich* in Wester Ross referring to families called MacQueen in English who were related to the MacDonalds. An ancient name for the MacDonalds is *Siol Chuinn*, "seed of Conn", the original progenitor of the clan and this name applies to families called Conn both in Aberdeenshire and the west who felt themselves aligned to the MacDonalds. Additionally, the MacDonalds could lay claim to being *Clann Cholla*, "offspring of Coll", referring to *Conn Ceudchathach* or Conn of the Hundred Battles who had been a high king of Ireland. Different branches of the MacDonalds have more specific designations such as the MacDonalds of Ardnamurchan, Glengarry, Keppoch, and Sleat and the Isles who are called *Clann Dòmhnail Àird nam Murchan*, *Clann Dòmhnail Ghlinne Garadh*, *Clann Dòmhnail na Ceapaich* and *Clann Dòmhnail Shléite* respectively. Some of the branches have very different names, for instance the MacDonalds of Keppoch in addition to the above are also known as *Clann Raghnaill na Ceapaich*, "offspring of Ragnall/Ranald of Keppoch", *Sliochd an Taighe*, "offspring of the house", *Sliochd Iain Duibh*, "offspring of Black Iain/John", and *Sliochd na Ban-fhighe*, "offspring of the female weaver". The MacDonalds of Sleat and the Isles are also called *Clann Uisdein*, "offspring of Uisdean/Hugh"; the MacDonalds of Clanranald were known simply as *Clann Raghnaill* while the MacDonalds of Bornish are *Sliochd Iain Mhic Raghnaill*, "descendants of Iain son of Ranald". The MacDonalds of Dunnevaig are *Sliochd Eòin Mhóir*, "descendants of great Eòin/Jonathan", while the MacDonalds of Glencoe are *Clann Iain Abraich*, "offspring of Iain of Lochaber" and the MacDonalds of South Uist and Canna who were also known in English as MacRury are called *Siol Ghoraidh*, "seed of Goraith/Godfrey or Godred". Some of the designations are more like nicknames, such as that of the MacDonalds of Bohuntine, *Sliochd an Taighe*, "descendants of the house", of the MacDonalds of Braemar, *Sliochd a' Mhadaidh Allaidh*, "descendants of the wolf", of the MacDonalds of Largie in Kintyre, *Teaghlach Bealach a' Ghearrain*, which may be "family of the gelding's pass", and not least *Dòmhnallaich a' bhotail 's a' phoca mhine*, "the MacDonalds of the bottle and the bag of meal", which was used to refer to families in North Uist who allegedly adopted the name MacDonald in exchange for a bottle of whisky and a bag of meal. The MacDonalds of Dalness were called *Clann Reubhair*, "clan Rhymer", in an apparent reference to the legendary Thomas the Rhymer. *MacDhòmhnaill* is also anglicised as Donald, Donaldson and MacDonnell. The various MacDonald chiefs have their own titles such as MacDonald of MacDonald or Lord MacDonald who is *Mac Dhòmhnaill* and *Am*

*Morair Dòmhnallach*, "the MacDonald lord", or *Am Morair Sléiteach*, "the Sleat lord". MacDonald of Ardnamurchan is *Mac Iain Àird nam Murchan*, "son of John of Ardnamurchan", while MacDonald of Glenalladale is *Mac Iain Òig*, "son of young John", and MacDonald of Glencoe is simply *Mac Iain*, "son of John". MacDonald of Clanranald is *Mac Mhic Ailein*, "son of the son of Ailean/Alan", and MacDonald of Keppoch is *Mac Mhic Raghnaill*, "son of the son of Ranald". MacDonald of Knoydart is *Mac Ailein Mhic Ailein*, "son of Alan son of Alan", and MacDonald of Morar is *Mac Mhic Dhùghaill (Mhóraig)*, "son of the son of Dùghall/Dougal (of Morar)". MacDonald of the Isles is *Mac Dhòmhnaill nan Eilean*.

### **MacDonnell** MacDhòmhnaill

(gen. *MhicDhòmhnaill*; voc. *a MhicDhòmhnaill*)

"Son of Dòmhnall/Donald". This version of MacDonald was used by some members of Clan Donald particularly in Dunnyveg, Glengarry and Keppoch. This is also the anglicised form most commonly used in Ireland.

### **MacDougall** MacDhùghaill, MacLùcais

(gen. *MhicDhùghaill*, *MhicLùcais*; voc. *a MhicDhùghaill*, *a MhicLùcais*)

"Son of Dùghall/Dougal or Dugald". *MacDhùghaill* is usually anglicised as MacDougall, but regional variations occur. In Galloway Coles, Dowall and MacDowall are found, where the MacDowalls were known collectively as *Clann MhicDhùghaill*. Elsewhere Coull is found as an anglicisation although in Aberdeenshire this may originate in the name of the parish of Coull. Coles and Coull show how the *C* of *Mac* was transferred to the second part of the name. In Coll, *MacLùcais* was anglicised as MacDougall, but as Douglas in some parts of Argyll and as Luke, MacLucas and MacLugash elsewhere. MacDougall of Lorn is called *Mac Dhùghaill Latharna*.

### **MacDowall** MacDhùghaill

See **MacDougall**.

### **MacDuff** MacDhubhthaich, MacDhuibh

(gen. *MhicDhubhthaich*, *MhicDhuibh*; voc. *a MhicDhubhthaich*, *a MhicDhuibh*)

*MacDhubhthaich* is "son of Dubhthach/Duthac", a personal name associated with the Easter Ross town of Tain which in Gaelic is *Baile Dhubhthaich*, "the town of St Duthac". *MacDhubhthaich* can also be anglicised as Duthie. *MacDhuibh* is "son of Dubh/Duff", an adjective meaning "black-haired". The MacDuffs were known as *Clann Dubh*, "black-haired offspring" or "offspring of Duff".

### **MacDuffie** MacDhubhshìth

See **Duffy**.

### **MacEachen** MacEachainn

(gen. *MhicEachainn*; voc. *a MhicEachainn*)

"Son of Eachann/Hector". *MacEachainn* is also anglicised as MacGeachen.

### **MacEachern** Ceacharna, MacEachairn, MacEacharna

(gen. *Ceacharna*, *MhicEachairn*, *MhicEacharna*; voc. *a Cheacharna*, *a MhicEachairn*, *a MhicEacharna*)

"Son of Eacharn/Hector". *MacEacharna* is often anglicised as MacKechnie but also as Cochrane in Argyll. Particularly in Kintyre and Arran, surnames often dropped the *Ma* part of *Mac* so that *MacEacharna* became *Ceacharna* which behaved like an adjectival surname of the *Caimbeul* type, meaning that *Iain Ceacharna* shows a male surname while *Màiri Cheacharna* shows the female version.

**MacElfrish** MacIllebhris

(gen. *MhicIllebhris*; voc. *a MhicIllebhris*)

"Son of the follower of Bris/Bricius", the personal name of a Gaulish saint from around the fifth century.

**MacErchar** MacFhearchair

See **Farquhar**.

**MacEwan, MacEwen** MacEóghainn

(gen. *MhicEóghainn*; voc. *a MhicEóghainn*)

"Son of Eóghann/Ewan". *MacEóghainn* is also anglicised as Eunson, Evinson, Ewenson and Ewing. The MacEwans of Cowal were known as *Clann Eóghainn na h-Oitrich*, "offspring of Ewan of Otter Ferry", a settlement on Loch Fyne.

**MacFadyen, MacFadzean** MacPhaidein, MacPhàidein

(gen. *MhicPhaidein, MhicPhàidein*; voc. *a MhicPhaidein, a MhicPhàidein*)

"Son of Paidean or Pàidean/Paddy". The MacFadyens were known as *Clann Phàidein*, "offspring of Paddy", and as *Sliochd nan Òr-cheàrd*, "descendants of the goldsmiths".

**MacFall** MacPhàil

See **MacPhail**.

**MacFarlane** MacPhàrlain

(gen. *MhicPhàrlain*; voc. *a MhicPhàrlain*)

"Son of Pàrlan/Bartholomew". This name is closely associated with the Loch Lomond area where it was also anglicised as Bartholomew. The MacFarlanes in general are known as *Clann Phàrlain*, "offspring of Bartholomew", with certain families known as *Clann Ailein*, "offspring of Ailean/Alan", and the MacFarlanes of Arrochar as *Clann Phàrlain an Fhearainn*, "the MacFarlanes of the land". MacFarlane of that Ilk is *Mac Phàrlain*, occasionally elaborated into *Mac a' Bhàirling*, a name which conjures up large surging waves.

**MacFarquhar** MacFhearchair

See **Farquhar**.

**MacFater** MacIllepheadair, MacPheadair

(gen. *MhicIllepheadair, MhicPheadair*; voc. *a MhicIllepheadair, a MhicPheadair*)

"Son of the follower of Peadar/Peter" and "son of saint Peter". This name is linked to Kintyre and is also anglicised as MacPhater and Peters.

**MacFeat** MacPhaid

(gen. *MhicPhaid*; voc. *a MhicPhaid*)

"Son of Paid/Pat". This name is associated with Galloway where Faed is also found as an anglicisation.

**MacFee** Mac a' Phì

See **MacPhee**.

**MacFerries** MacFhearghais

See **Fergus**.



**MacFetridge** MacPheadrais  
See **Fetridge**.

**MacFie** Mac a' Phi  
See **MacPhee**.

**MacFigan** MacBhigein, MacFigeinn  
See **Littleson**.

**MacGarrow** MacGhairbh  
(gen. *MhicGhairbh*; voc. *a MhicGhairbh*)  
"Son of Garbh", an adjective meaning "rough". This name was found in Colonsay where the MacGarrows were called *Clann MhicGhairbh*, "offspring of MacGarrow". This is a different name from **Garrow**.

**MacGarva**, **MacGarvie** MacGairbheith  
See **Garvie**.

**MacGavin** Mac a' Ghobhainn  
(gen. *Mhic a' Ghobhainn*; voc. *a Mhic a' Ghobhainn*)  
This anglicisation of *Mac a' Ghobhainn*, "son of the smith", was found in both Galloway and Moray, although the usual anglicisations are MacGowan and Smith.

**MacGeachen** MacEachainn  
See **MacEachen**.

**MacGhie** MacAoidh  
See **MacKay**.

**MacGibbon** MacGiobain  
See **Cubbin**.

**MacGill** Mac a' Ghoill, MacIllemhaoil  
(gen. *Mhic a' Ghoill*, *MhicIllemhaoil*; voc. *a Mhic a' Ghoill*, *a MhicIllemhaoil*)  
*Mac a' Ghoill*, "son of the non-Gael or foreigner", was anglicised as MacGill in Jura, and elsewhere as Gall and Gauld. As well as MacGill, *MacIllemhaoil*, "son of the follower of the tonsured one", is anglicised as Bell in Islay and MacMillan elsewhere. See **MacMillan**.

**MacGilligan** MacIllfhaolagain  
(gen. *MhicIllfhaolagain*; voc. *a MhicIllfhaolagain*)  
"Son of the follower of Faolan/Fillan" based on a diminutive form, *Faolagan*, of the personal name. The Gaelic name is also anglicised as MacKilligan.

**MacGillivray** Bràigheach, MacGille, MacIllebhàrath  
(gen. *Bhràighich*, *MhicGille*, *MhicIllebhàrath*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)  
*MacIllebhàrath* appears to be "son of the follower of judgement", but this may have been corrupted through the years. *Bràigheach* is an adjectival name formed from a slightly different version of the final element of *MacIllebhàrath*. *MacGille* was used in Wester Ross and is "son of the follower". The MacGillivrays are collectively known as *Clann MhicIllebhàrath*, "offspring of MacGillivray" and *na*

*Bràighich.*

**MacGillonie** MacIllonfhaidh  
See **Lonie**.

**MacGillvantic** MacIllemhanntaich

(gen. *MhicIllemhanntaich*; voc. *A MhicIllemhanntaich*)

"Son of the stuttering one". This name is linked to Brae Lochaber and originally to Barra, but most bearers of the name adopted MacDonald, and it may no longer be in currency. See **Mantach**.

**MacGilp** MacFhilib

(gen. *MhicFhilib*; voc. *a MhicFhilib*)

"Son of Filib/Philip", which is also anglicised as MacKillop.

**MacGlashan** MacGlaisein

See **Glashan**.

**MacGorrie** MacGoraidh

See **Gorrie**.

**MacGowan** Mac a' Ghobhainn, MacEóghainn

(gen. *Mhic a' Ghobhainn*, *MhicEóghainn*; voc. *a Mhic a' Ghobhainn*, *a MhicEóghainn*)

Usually MacGowan represents an anglicisation of *Mac a' Ghobhainn*, "son of the smith", although in Galloway some instances of MacGowan may stem from *MacEóghainn*, "son of Ewan" which is normally anglicised as **MacEwan**.

**MacGregor** Griogal, Griogalach, MacGriogair

(gen. *Ghriogail*, *Ghriogalaich*, *MhicGriogair*; voc. *a Ghriogalaich*, *a Ghriogalaich*, *a MhicGriogair*)

*MacGriogair* is the usual name and is "son of Griogar/Gregory", but *Griogal* and *Griogalach* were used in Wester Ross and elsewhere. The MacGregors are known as *Clann Ghriogair*, "offspring of Gregory", *na Griogalaich* and *na Griogaraich*, the second being used in Wester Ross. Additionally, they are known as *na h-Ailpeinich*, "the people of **Ailpean/Alpin**" who was said to be the originator of the clan, and were known by the nickname *Clann a' Cheò*, "children of the mist", as a result of their cattle raiding activities. MacGregors in different areas were known by different names, such as the MacGregors of Balhaldie in south Perthshire who were *Clann Iain Mhalaich*, "offspring of shaggy Iain/John", the MacGregors of Glengyle who were *Clann Dùghaill Chéir*, "offspring of dark Dùghall/Dougal", the hereditary MacGregor pipers of Glenlyon who were *Clann an Sgeulaiche*, "offspring of the storyteller", and the MacGregors of Mar who were simply *Na Gillean Ruadh*, "the red-haired lads". The MacGregors of the Braemar area were *Griogaraich an Aoil*, "the MacGregors of lime", and distinguished from those in the rest of Mar who were *Griogaraich na Smùide*, "the MacGregors of smoke", due to differing to agricultural practices. MacGregor of MacGregor is *An t-Ailpeineach Mór*, "the Great Alpin-man".

**MacGruer**, **MacGruther** Mac a' Ghrùdair

See **Brewster**.

**MacGurk** MacCuirc

(gen. *MhicCuirc*; voc. *a MhicCuirc*)

"Son of Corc", a personal name no longer in use. *MacCuirc* was associated with Lennox,

Glendaruel and Knapdale.

**MacHaffie** MacCathbhaidh, MacIlleathbhaidh  
See **MacAffie**.

**MacHardie** MacCardaidh  
See **Hardie**.

**MacHarg** MacCairge, MacIllechairge  
This name appears to mean “son of (the follower of) Cairge”, following the pattern of saint names but there is no known saint of this name. This may in fact be a variant of **Craig** which stems from *Mac a' Charraige*, meaning “son of the rock”. In its MacHarg guise, this name is most closely associated with Carrick and Galloway.

**MacHeth** MacAoidh  
See **MacKay**.

**MacHutcheon** MacHaistein, MacÙisdein  
See **MacCutcheon**.

**MacIldonich** MacMhaoldòmhnaich  
(gen. *MhicMhaoldòmhnaich*; voc. *a MhicMhaoldòmhnaich*)  
"Son of the devotee of the Lord". This name was found in the Inverness area but may have been subsumed into *MacIlledhòmhnaich* which is anglicised as Downie and MacIldownie.

**MacIldownie** MacIlledhòmhnaich  
(gen. *MhicIlledhòmhnaich*; voc. *a MhicIlledhòmhnaich*)  
"Son of the follower of the Lord".

**MacIlhatton** MacIllechatain  
(gen. *MhicIllechatain*; voc. *a MhicIllechatain*)  
"Son of the follower of Catan", a personal name which means "little cat". See **Cattanach**. This name is associated with Argyll in general but especially Kintyre where it was also anglicised as Hatton and Hutton.

**MacIlherran** MacIllechiarain  
(gen. *MhicIllechiarain*; voc. *a MhicIllechiarain*)  
"Son of the follower of saint Ciaran/**Kieran**". This name is also anglicised as MacKerron and Sharpe.

**MacIlroy** MacIlleruaidh  
See **Gilroy**.

**MacIlvain, MacIlwaine** MacIllebheathain  
(gen. *MhicIllebheathain*; voc. *a MhicIllebheathain*)  
"Son of the follower of **Beathan**/Bean". This name is close to *MacBheathain* which is anglicised as MacBain, MacBean and MacVean.

**MacIlwraith** MacIlleriabhaich  
See **Darroch**.

**MacInally** Mac an Ollaimh

(gen. *Mhic an Ollaimh*; voc. *a Mhic an Ollaimh*)

This name is associated with Dunbartonshire and is "son of the chief poet". See **MacNeillie**.

**MacIndeor** Mac an Deòir

See **Dewar**.

**MacIndoe** Mac an Duibh, Mac Iain Duibh

(gen. *Mhic an Duibh*, *Mhic Iain Duibh*; voc. *a Mhic an Duibh*, *a Mhic Iain Duibh*)

MacIndoe is originally a Perthshire and Stirlingshire name meaning "son of the black(-haired) one" or "son of black(-haired) Iain/John".

**MacInesker** Mac an Iasgair

See **Fisher**.

**MacInnes** MacAonghais

(gen. *MhicAonghais*; voc. *a MhicAonghais*)

"Son of Aonghas/Angus". Few names have generated so many different anglicised forms as *MacAonghais*, developing into Angus, Angussan, Canch, Caunce in Galloway, Innes and Kindness in the north-east, MacAinsh, MacAngus, MacCance, and MacNeish or MacNish in Perthshire, variously through loss of *Mac*, retention of *C*, elision of the first syllables and substitution of a similar word. Many people named Innes may trace the origin of their name to the place near Elgin rather than from an abbreviated anglicisation of *MacAonghais*. The MacInneses are *Clann Aonghais*, "offspring of Angus", but those in Laroch near Glencoe are *Clann Iain Duibh Mhic Eòghainn Duibh*, "offspring of black Iain/John son of black Eòghann/Ewan", while the MacInneses of Strath in Skye are *Sliochd Nèill a' Bhogha*, "descendants of Niall/Neil of the bow". MacInnes of that Ilk is called *Mac Aonghais Cheann Loch Àlainn*, "MacInnes of Kinlochaline".

**MacInroy** Mac an Ruaidh, Mac Iain Ruaidh

(gen. *Mhic an Ruaidh*, *Mhic Iain Ruaidh*; voc. *a Mhic an Ruaidh*, *a Mhic Iain Ruaidh*)

"Son of the red-haired one" or "son of red-haired Iain/John".

**MacIntosh** Mac an Tòisich, MacFhionnlaigh, Tòiseach

(gen. *Mhic an Tòisich*, *MhicFhionnlaigh*, *Thòisich*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

"Son of the leader", from *tòiseach*. *Mac an Tòisich* is also anglicised as MacKintosh and Tosh. In Glenshee *MacFhionnlaigh*, "son of Fionnlagh/Finlay", was anglicised as MacIntosh while *Tòiseach*, "leader", was the name used in north Sutherland. The MacIntoshes are *Clann an Tòisich*, "offspring of the leader", and *Na Tòisichean*, "the MacIntoshes or leaders", a variant of which, *Na Tòisich*, was used in north Sutherland and Lochaber as in *Tòisich a' Bhràighe*, the by-name of the MacIntoshes of Brae Lochaber. Locally, the MacIntoshes of Kyllachy were *Sliochd Ailein*, "descendants of Ailean/Alan", while those in Strathdee were *Sliochd Àdhaimh Mhic Lachlainn*, "descendants of Àdhamh/Adam son of Lachlann". MacIntosh of MacIntosh is *Mac an Tòisich (Mhic Dhuibh)*, "son of the leader (son of Dubh/Duff)", also called *Tighearna na Mòighe*, "the lord of Moy". MacIntosh of Clan Chattan is *Gille Chatain Mór*, "the great follower of Catan".

**MacIntyre** Mac an t-Saoir

(gen. *Mhic an t-Saoir*; voc. *a Mhic an t-Saoir*)

"Son of the carpenter or wright", from *saor*. This name is also anglicised as MacTear, Tyre and Wright. The MacIntyres are known as *Clann an t-Saoir*, "offspring of the carpenter".

**MacIsaac** MacÌosaig

(gen. *MhicÌosaig*; voc. *a MhicÌosaig*)

"Son of Ìosag/Isaac", this Gaelic name is also anglicised as MacKessack.

**MacIver** MacÌomhair

(gen. *MhicÌomhair*; voc. *a MhicÌomhair*)

"Son of Ìomhar/Ívarr". An adjectival form of this name, *Ìomharach*, is anglicised as Iverach and Ivory. See **Edward**.

**MacJarrow** Mac an Deòraidh

See **Jorrie**.

**MacKay** MacÀdhaimh, MacÀidh, MacAoidh

(gen. *MhicÀdhaimh*, *MacÀidh*, *MhicAoidh*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

*MacÀdhaimh*, "son of Àdhamh/Adam", and *MacÀidh* may be the same name, while *MacAoidh* is "son of Aodh/Hugh". There is an argument that *MacÀidh* comes from *MacDhàibhidh* rather than *MacÀdhaimh*, but see **Davidson**. The MacKays are known as *Clann MhicAoidh*, "offspring of MacKay", and *na Caoidhich*, "the MacKays". Another older name is *Siol Mhorgain*, "seed of Morgan", claimed as progenitor of the clan. In Sutherland, the MacKays are called *Clann(a) Mhorgain*, "offspring of Morgan", while locally the Mackays of Ardmeanach are *Siol Tòmais*, "seed of Tòmas/Thomas", the MacKays of Creich are *Siol Phàil*, "seed of Pàl/Paul", a name also used by the MacPhails of Gairloch, and the MacKays of Achness and Strathnaver are *Sliochd an Abraich*, "descendants of the Aber man", or *Sliochd Iain Abraich*, "descendants of Iain/John the Aber man", "Aber" being a reference to a place containing the element "aber". The chief of this branch of the MacKays is *Mac Aoidh Abrach*, while MacKay of May, also known as Lord Reay, is simply *Mac Aoidh*. MacKay of the Rinns of Islay is *Mac Aoidh na Ranna*. *MacAoidh* is also anglicised as Kay and as MacGhie in Galloway and MacHeth in Moray, this last reflecting a very old Gaelic pronunciation.

**MacKeady** MacCéidigh

(gen. *MhicCéidigh*; voc. *a MhicCéidigh*)

This name appears to be of Irish origin although the personal name is unclear but said to come from the word for "hundred" or "first".

**MacKean** MacIain

See **Johnson**.

**MacKechnie** MacEachairn, MacEacharna

See **MacEachern**.

**MacKeegan** MacAodhagain

(gen. *MhicAodhagain*; voc. *a MhicAodhagain*)

"Son of Aodh/Hugh", containing *Aodhagan* which is a double diminutive similar to "wee Hughie". This name is mainly associated with North Uist.

**MacKeggie** MacÀdhaimh

See **Adam**.

**MacKeith** MacCàidh, MacShithich

(gen. *MhicCàidh*, *MhicShithich*; voc. *a MhicCàidh*, *a MhicShithich*)

MacKeith is the anglicisation of two different names. *MacCàidh* may have started off as *MacDhàibhidh* which is "son of Dàibhidh/David". However, it may also be related to *MacÀidh*. See **Keith** and **MacKay**. *MacShithich* is "son of the wolf" and is also anglicised as Keith and Shiach in Moray and as Shaw more generally.

**MacKellaig** MacCeallaig

(gen. *MacCeallaig*; voc. *a MhicCeallaig*)

This name is a variant of **Kelly**. People called by this name in Mull changed it to MacDonald.

**MacKellar** MacCeallair, MacEalair

(gen. *MhicCeallair*, *MhicEalair*; voc. *a MhicCeallair*, *a MhicEalair*)

MacKellar appears to be the anglicised form of two separate names. *MacCeallair* suggests "son of the cellar keeper" which was an ecclesiastical title whereas *MacEalair* is said to be "son of Ealar", a gaelicisation of the Latin name *Hilarius*.

**MacKelvie** MacShealbhaigh

(gen. *MhicShealbhaigh*; voc. *a MhicShealbhaigh*)

"Son of Sealbhach" meaning "fortunate one", a personal name found in the name of the Aberdeenshire village *Baile Shealbhaigh* or Belhelvie.

**MacKemie** MacSheumais, MacShimidh

(gen. *MhicSheumais*, *MhicShimidh*; voc. *a MhicSheumais*, *a MhicShimidh*)

*MacSheumais*, "son of Seumas/James" was anglicised as MacKemie in Bute but elsewhere this is the anglicisation of *MacShimidh*, "son of Simidh/Simon". See **Jamieson**.

**MacKendrick** MacEanraig

See **Henderson**.

**MacKenna** MacCionadha

(gen. *MhicCionadha*; voc. *a MhicCionadha*)

This name and the related MacKinnie are associated with Galloway and feature a first name, *Cionadh* meaning "born of fire", no longer used in Gaelic but the origin of the name Kenneth in English. In Gaelic *Coinneach* has replaced *Cionadh* and is now considered the equivalent of **Kenneth**.

**MacKenzie** MacChoinnich, MacCoinnich, Mhorair

(gen. *MhicChoinnich*, *MhicCoinnich*, *Mhorair*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive form)

"Son of Coinneach/Kenneth". *MacChoinnich* is the form used in Lewis, and *MacCoinnich* elsewhere. In Easter Ross, some fishing families named MacKenzie had the tee-name of *Mhorair*. The MacKenzies as a whole are *Clann Choinnich*, "offspring of Kenneth" while the chief, MacKenzie of Seaforth or the Earl of Seaforth, is *Mac Coinnich*, "son of Kenneth", with the by-name of *Cabar Féidh*, "antlers", the clan crest of the MacKenzies. See **MacDonald** and **MacWhinnie**.

**MacKerlich** MacTheàrlaich

See **Charleson**.

**MacKerracher** MacFhearchair

See **Farquhar**.

**MacKerrall** MacFhearghail

(gen. *MhicFhearghail*; voc. *a MhicFhearghail*)

"Son of Fearghal/Fergal", a personal name never commonly used in Scotland but found in the place-name *Cnoc Fearghalaidh* or Knockfarrel near Dingwall.

**MacKerras** MacFhearghais

See **Fergus**.

**MacKerron** MacCiarain, MacIllechiarain

(gen. *MhicCiarain*, *MhicIllechiarain*; voc. *a MhicCiarain*, *a MhicIllechiarain*)

*MacIllechiarain*, "son of the follower of Ciaran/Kieran", is also anglicised as MacIlherron and Sharpe.

**MacKerrow** MacCearraich

(gen. *MhicCearraich*; voc. *a MhicCearraich*)

This is said to be "son of the gambler or gamer", possibly referring to dexterity and skill rather than any negative connotations.

**MacKessack, MacKessock** MacCeasaig, MacÌosaig

(gen. *MhicCeasaig*, *MhicÌosaig*; voc. *a MhicCeasaig*, *a MhicÌosaig*)

MacKessack or MacKessock comes from two different sources. *MacCeasaig* contains the name of the saint usually anglicised as Kessog or Kessock and is related to the personal name *Ceasan* as found in the surname **Kesson**. *MacÌosaig* is usually anglicised as **MacIsaac** but in some instances became MacKissack which in turn developed into MacKessack/MacKessock, some of whom dropped the "Mac" part and became Kessock.

**MacKettrick** MacShitrig

(gen. *MhicShitrig*; voc. *a MhicShitrig*)

"Son of Sitrig" which is a personal name of Norse origin meaning "true victory".

**MacKichan** MacFhitheachain

(gen. *MhicFhitheachain*; voc. *a MhicFhitheachain*)

"Son of the little raven".

**MacKilligan** MacIllfhaolagain

See **MacGilligan**.

**MacKillop** MacFhilib, MacPhàic

(gen. *MhicFhilib*, *MhicPhàic*; voc. *a MhicFhilib*, *a MhicPhàic*)

*MacFhilib*, "son of Filib/Philip" is also anglicised as MacGilp, and in Berneray near North Uist, *MacPhàic* which contains an unclear personal name is anglicised as MacKillop although the two names are unrelated.

**MacKim** MacShìm

(gen. *MhicShìm*; voc. *a MhicShìm*)

"Son of Sìm/Simon", this name is related to *MacShimidh*. See **Jamieson**.

**MacKimmie** MacShimidh

See **Jamieson**.

**MacKinlay** MacFhionnlaigh  
See **Finlayson**.

**MacKinnie** MacCionadha  
See **MacKenna**.

**MacKinnon** MacEanain, MacFhionghain, MacSiridh, MacTiridh  
(gen. *MhicEanain, MhicFhionghain, MhicSiridh, MhicTiridh*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

*MacFhionghain* is "son of Fionghan/Fingon" the simplified form of which, *MacEanain*, was used in Arran and Kintyre, while *MacSiridh* and *MacTiridh*, "son of Serrach", a name possibly connected to "foal", can be anglicised as MacSherry and were names used by families linked to MacKinnons and MacDonalds in Mull. The MacKinnons are known as *Clann MhicFhionghain*, "offspring of MacKinnon", and as *Clann Fhionghain nam Faochag*, "offspring of Fionghan of the wheelks". A by-name of the MacKinnons is *Sliochd Chairbre Riada*, "descendants of Cairbre of Riada", said to be the founder of the Dal Riada people. The MacKinnons of Easter Moy in Lochaber were known as *Sliochd Iain Maigh na Giuthais*, referring to the forest of Loch Arkaig known as *An Giuthas* or *A' Ghiuthas*. The MacKinnon chief is *Mac Fhionghain*.

**MacKintosh** Mac an Tòisich  
See **MacIntosh**.

**MacKinven** MacIonmhainn  
See **Love**.

**MacKirdie, MacKirdy** MacMhuirheartaich, MacMhurardaich, MacUrardaigh  
(gen. *MacMhuirheartaich, MacMhurardaich, MacUrardaigh*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

*MacMhurardaich* and *MacUrardaigh* are simplified forms of *MacMhuirheartaich*, "son of Muirheartach", a personal name meaning "sea ruler" also anglicised as MacCurdy. In its full form *MacMhuirheartaich* is also anglicised as MacMurtrie and in Bute as MacVurathy.

**MacKissack** MacÌosaig  
See **MacKessack**.

**MacKnockater** Mac an Fhùcadair  
(gen. *Mhic an Fhùcadair*; voc. *a Mhic an Fhùcadair*)  
"Son of the waulker or fuller", this name is also anglicised as Walker. The occupational name is found in the Banffshire village of *Magh an Fhùcadair* or MaggieKnockater near Craigellachie.

**MacLachlan** MacLachainn, MacLachlainn  
(gen. *MhicLachainn, MhicLachlainn*; voc. *a MhicLachainn, a MhicLachlainn*)  
"Son of Lachlann". The *MacLachainn* form was more commonly used in Mull and Argyll where the MacLachlans are called *Clann Lachainn*, "offspring of Lachlann", while elsewhere they are *Clann Lachlainn*.

**MacLafferty** MacFhlaithbheartaich  
(gen. *MhicFhlaithbheartaich*; voc. *a MhicFhlaithbheartaich*)  
"Son of Flaithbheartach", a personal name referring to princely riches. This name is also anglicised



as MacLarty and MacLaverty.

**MacLagan** MacIlllaodhagain, MacLathagain

(gen. *MhicIlllaodhagain, MhicLathagain*; voc. *a MhicIlllaodhagain, a MhicLathagain*)

"Son of the follower of Aodh/Hugh" featuring a double diminutive of the personal name in the form of *Aodhagan*. The second Gaelic name was widely used in Perthshire and is a simplification of the first.

**MacLaine** MacIlleathain

See **MacLean**.

**MacLaren** MacLabhraich, MacLabhrainn

(gen. *MhicLabhraich, MhicLabhrainn*; voc. *a MhicLabhraich, a MhicLabhrainn*)

"Son of Labhrann/Laurence". *MacLabhraich* was used in Lochaber.

**MacLarty** MacFhlaithbheartaich

See **MacLafferty**.

**MacLatchie** MacIlléidich

(gen. *MhicIlléidich*; voc. *a MhicIlléidich*)

"Son of the follower of Éideach", an unclear personal name no longer in use.

**MacLauchlan** MacLachainn, MacLachlainn

See **MacLachlan**.

**MacLaurin** MacLabhrainn

See **MacLaren**.

**MacLaverty** MacFhlaithbheartaich

See **MacLafferty**.

**MacLean** MacIlleathain.

(gen. *MhicIlleathain*; voc. *a MhicIlleathain*)

"Son of the follower of saint John". *MacIlleathain* is normally anglicised as MacLean but variants such as Clean in Galloway, Gellion, Gilzean and MacLaine are also found. The 20<sup>th</sup> century poet Sorley MacLean spelled his name *Somhairle MacGill-Eain*. The MacLeans are known as *Clann Illeathain*, "offspring of Gilleathain", or *Clann MhicIlleathain*, "offspring of MacLean", and simply as *na Leathanaich*, "the MacLeans". The MacLeans of Dochgarroch and Glen Urquhart are *Clann Theàrlaich Bhuidhe*, "offspring of yellow-haired Teàrlach/Charles", while the MacLeans of the Ross of Mull are *Sliochd a' Chlaidheimh Iarainn*, "descendants of the iron sword". The MacLaines of Lochbuie, whose surname is simply a slightly different anglicised spelling, are called *Sliochd Mhurchaidh Ruaidh*, "descendants of red-haired Murchadh/Murdo", and their chief is *MacIlleathain Locha Buidhe*, "MacLean of Lochbuie". MacLean of Duart is *MacIlleathain Dhubhaird* while other MacLean notables have very different names, such as MacLean of Argdour who is *Mac Mhic Eóghainn*, "son of the son of Eóghann/Ewan", and MacLean of Coll who is *Mac Mhic Iain*, "son of the son of Iain/John", or *Mac Iain Abraich*, "son of John the Abrach-man", referring to a place the name of which contains "aber". Finally MacLean of Kingairloch is *Mac Mhic Eachainn Cheann a' Gheàrrloch*, "son of the son of Eachann/Hector of Kingairloch".

**MacLearnan** MacIllearnain

(gen. *MhicIllearnain*; voc. *a MhicIllearnain*)  
"Son of the follower of Earnan".

**MacLeay** Mac an Léigh, Mac an Leighe, MacDhùnshléibhe  
(gen. *Mhic an Léigh*, *Mhic an Leighe*, *MhicDhùnshléibhe*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)  
*Mac an Léigh*, "son of the doctor or physician", was used in Lewis and anglicised there as MacLeay but as Beaton in Islay and Livingstone more widely in Argyll. *Mac an Leighe* which means the same was used in Wester Ross. *MacDhùnshléibhe* is anglicised both as MacLeay and Livingstone in Islay, and as Conlay in Kintyre.

**MacLehose** MacIllethòmhais  
See **Hosier**.

**MacLeish** Mac a' Lios, MacIlliosa  
See **Lees**.

**MacLellan** MacIllfhaolain, MacIllfhialain  
(gen. *MhicIllfhaolain*, *MhicIllfhialain*; voc. *a MhicIllfhaolain*, *a MhicIllfhialain*)  
"Son of the follower of Faolan/Fillan". *MacIllfhialain* is the form of the name used in South Uist, while *MacIllfhaolain* is used elsewhere and is also anglicised as Cleland, Clelland, Gilfillan, Gilliland and MacClelland. In North Uist the MacLellans are known as *na Faolanaich*, "the Fillan people", the name *Faolan* being based on *faol*, "wolf".

**MacLeman** MacLaomainn  
See **Lamont**.

**MacLennan** MacIllfhinnein, MacIlllianain, MacLianain  
(gen. *MhicIllfhinnein*, *MhicIlllianain*, *MhicLianain*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)  
"Son of the follower of Finnean/Finian". The second two names were used in Wester Ross and are simplifications of the first name. The MacLennans are known as *Clann Illfhinnein*, "offspring of Gillfhinnein", and in Wester Ross as *na Linneanaich*, "the MacLennans".

**MacLeod** MacLeòid  
(gen. *MhicLeòid*; voc. *a MhicLeòid*)  
"Son of Leòd/Ljótr", a Norse personal name. The MacLeods are known as *Clann MhicLeòid*, "offspring of MacLeod", and *Sliochd Olghair*, "seed of Olghar", and their overall chief is simply *MacLeòid* which is also the name of MacLeod of Harris. A general term for the MacLeods is *na Leòdaich*, "the Leod people", which becomes *na Fleòdaich* in north Sutherland. The MacLeods of Dunvegan and Glenelg are *Siol Tormoid*, "seed of Tormod/Norman" or *na Tormodaich*, "the Normanites", and the MacLeods of Lewis are *Siol Torcaill*, "seed of Torcall/Torquil". MacLeod of Raasay is known as *Mac Ghille Chaluim*, "son of the follower of Calum", referring originally to St Columba.

**MacLergan** MacIllfheargain  
(gen. *MhicIllfheargain*; voc. *a MhicIllfheargain*)  
This Islay name means "son of the follower of Feargan/Fergan".

**MacLerie** Mac a' Chléirich  
See **Clark**.

**MacLetchie** MacIlléidich  
See **MacLatchie**.

**MacLintock** MacIllfhionndaig  
See **Lindsay**.

**MacLinton** MacIllfhionndain  
See **Clinton**.

**MacLiver** MacIllmheir, MacLibhir  
(gen. *MhicIllmheir*; *MhicLibhir*; voc. *a MhicIllmheir*; *a MhicLibhir*)  
*MacIllmheir* was found in Islay and may contain a reference to *Ìomhar/Ívarr*, a Norse personal name found in MacIver. *MacLibhir* was found in Jura and may be the same name or also a variation on *MacIlluidhir*. See **MacClure**.

**MacLoy** MacLothaidh, MacLughaidh  
See **Fullarton**.

**MacLucas** MacLùcais  
See **Douglas**.

**MacLuckie** MacLùcaidh  
(gen. *MhicLùcaidh*; voc. *a MhicLùcaidh*)  
This name may be a variant or diminutive of **MacLucas** and was found in Galloway.

**MacLugash** MacLùcais  
See **Douglas**.

**MacLulich** MacLulaich  
See **MacCulloch**.

**MacLumpha** MacIlliomchadha  
See **MacClumpha**.

**MacLung** MacLuinge  
See **MacClung**. This name occurred in Galloway.

**MacLure** Mac a' Leòra, MacIldheòra, MacIlluidhir, MacLeòir  
See **MacClure**.

**MacLurg** MacLuirg  
(gen. *MhicLuirg*; voc. *a MhicLuirg*)  
"Son of Lurg", a personal name explained as "footman".

**MacMahon** MacMhathain  
(gen. *MhicMhathain*; voc. *a MhicMhathain*)  
"Son of the bear", from *mathan*. *MacMhathain* was anglicised as MacMahon in the Loch Shin area of Sutherland where it was also anglicised as Matheson which is the usual form. The MacMahons or Mathesons of Loch Shin were *Siol Mhathain*, "seed of Mathan". See **Matheson**.

**MacManachan** MacMhanachain.  
See **Monk**.

**MacMann** MacMhathain  
See **Matheson**.

**MacManus** MacMhànais  
(gen. *MhicMhànais*; voc. *a MhicMhànais*)  
"Son of Mànas/Magnus", a Norse personal name. This name is also anglicised as MacVanish.

**MacMartin** MacIllemhàrtainn, MacMhàrtainn  
See **Martin**.

**MacMaster** Mac a' Mhaighstir  
(gen. *Mhic a' Mhaighstir*; voc. *a Mhic a' Mhaighstir*)  
"Son of the master".

**MacMeechan, MacMeeken** MacMhiadhchain  
(gen. *MhicMhiadhchain*; voc. *a MhicMhiadhchain*)  
"Son of Miadhchan", a personal name suggesting nobility and honour. This name is associated with Galloway.

**MacMichael** MacIllemhicheil, MacMhicheil  
(gen. *MhicIllemhicheil, MhicMhicheil*; voc. *a MhicIllemhicheil, a MhicMhicheil*)  
These are "son of the follower of Micheal/Michael" and "son of Michael" respectively.  
*MacIllemhicheil* is commonly anglicised as Carmichael.

**MacMillan** MacIllemhaoil, MacMhaoilein, MacMhaolagain, MacMhaolain, Mac na Maoile  
(gen. *MhicIllemhaoil, MhicMhaoilein, MhicMhaolagain, MhicMhaolain, Mhic na Maoile*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)  
*Maol* means "blunt, bald or tonsured" and refers to the hair styles of monks and religious followers. Each of the Gaelic names refers to a monk in different ways and the names can vary from area to area. Both *MacIllemhaoil*, "son of the tonsured follower", and *MacMhaoilein* or *MacMhaolain*, "son of the tonsured one", are in use generally. The latter two have also been anglicised as Millan and possibly even Milne. *MacMhaolagain* was used in Galloway, is "son of the little (or dear) tonsured one" and is also anglicised as Milligan and Milliken. The Perthshire name *Mac na Maoile* is "son of the tonsure". The MacMillans are known as *Clann Mhaoilein*, *Clann Mhaolain* and *Clann MhicIllemhaoil* in general, but in Islay they are known as *na Beilich*, "the Bells". The MacMillans of Kintyre are known as *Clann Mhaoilein* and *Clann MhicIlledhuinn*, "offspring of the brown-haired one or Brown", and their chief is simply *MacMhaoilein* or *MacMhaolain*. The MacMillans of Lochaber are *Clann MhicIllemhaoil Abrach* where *Abrach* means "of Lochaber", and their chief *MacIllemhaoil Abrach*. MacMillan of Knap is called *MacMhaolain Mór a' Chnaip*, "Great MacMillan of Knap".

**MacMinn** MacMhèinn  
(gen. *MhicMhèinn*; voc. *a MhicMhèinn*)  
"Son of Menzies" which is a rare occurrence of a surname being used as the defining element of a patronymic.

**MacMorran, MacMorrin** MacMhoirein

(gen. *MhicMhoirein*; voc. *a MhicMhoirein*)

"Son of Mughron", a personal name no longer in use. *MacMhoirein* is also anglicised as Morran and in Islay as Morrison.

**MacMurchie** MacMhurchaidh, MacUrchaidh

(gen. *MhicMhurchaidh*, *MhicUrchaidh*; voc. *a MhicMhurchaidh*, *a MhicUrchaidh*)

"Son of Murchadh/Murdo". *MacUrchaidh* is a simplified form of *MacMhurchaidh* which is also anglicised as MacMurdo, Murchie, Murchison, Murdoch and Murphy. The MacMurchies of North Uist are *Siolachadh Mhurchaidh*, "seeding of Murdo".

**MacMurdo** MacMhurchaidh

See **MacMurchie**.

**MacMurray** MacMhuirich

(gen. *MhicMhuirich*; voc. *a MhicMhuirich*)

"Son of Muireach/Murdoch", this name is also anglicised as Currie, MacCurrie, MacVurich, Murchison, Murdoch and in Galloway as Murray.

**MacMurtrie** MacMhuirheartaich

See **MacKirdie**.

**MacNab** Mac an Aba

(gen. *Mhic an Aba*; voc. *a Mhic an Aba*)

"Son of the abbot". *Mac an Aba* is usually anglicised as MacNab and is also the Gaelic name of MacNab of MacNab. *Mac an Aba* is also anglicised as Abbot and Abbotson.

**MacNair** Mac an Fhuibhir, Mac an Oighre, Mac an Uidhir, Mac Iain Uidhir

(gen. *Mhic an Fhuibhir*, *Mhic an Oighre*, *Mhic an Uidhir*, *Mhic Iain Uidhir*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

The four Gaelic names which are anglicised as MacNair have different origins both geographically and etymologically. *Mac an Fhuibhir*, "son of the craftsman", was used in Argyll and neighbouring Lennox, while *Mac an Oighre*, "son of the heir", is associated with Perthshire where the MacNairs as a whole were *Clann an Oighre*, "offspring of the heir", and in an uncomplimentary fashion known as *Sliochd an Eich Bhrìc (nach robh riamh glic)*, "descendants of the speckled horse (that was never wise)". In Gairloch and Glen Garry *Mac Iain Uidhir*, "son of dun-coloured Iain/John", became simplified as *Mac an Uidhir*, "son of the dun-coloured one".

**MacNaughton** MacNeachdain

(gen. *MhicNeachdain*; voc. *a MhicNeachdain*)

"Son of Neachdan/Nechtan". The MacNaughtons are called *Clann Neachdain*, "offspring of Neachdan", and in Glen Lyon as *Clann a' Phortair*, "offspring of the porter", while the chief of the MacNaughtons is simply *Mac Neachdain*.

**MacNee** MacCridhe, MacNeimhe, MacNia

(gen. *MhicCridhe*, *MhicNeimhe*, *MhicNia*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

"Son of Nia", a personal name no longer used. The first two Gaelic forms were used in Perthshire.

**MacNeil** MacNéill, MacNìll

(gen. *MhicNéill*, *MhicNìll*; voc. *a MhicNéill*, *a MhicNìll*)

"Son of Niall/Neil". *MacNìll* is the form used in South Uist. MacNeil of Barra is *Mac Néill*.

**MacNeilage** MacNiallghais

(gen. *MhicNiallghais*; voc. *a MhicNiallghais*)

"Son of Niallghas", a personal name no longer in use.

**MacNeillie** Mac an Fhilidh

(gen. *Mhic an Fhilidh*; voc. *a Mhic an Fhilidh*)

"Son of the poet". A poet considered to be a *filidh* was considered to be a grade above the more common *bàrd* while *ollamh* was deemed to be of the highest grade. All three grades of poet are represented in surnames, *Mac a' Bhàird* which became Baird or Ward in English and *Mac an Ollaimh* which was anglicised as MacInally, in addition to *Mac an Fhilidh* as shown here.

**MacNeish, MacNish** MacNaois, MacNeis

(gen. *MhicNaois, MhicNeis*; voc. *a MhicNaois, a MhicNeis*)

These are local Perthshire forms of *MacAonghas*, "son of Aonghas/Angus". See **MacInnes**.

**MacNicol** MacNeacail

(gen. *MhicNeacail*; voc. *a MhicNeacail*)

"Son of Neacal/Nicholas". This name is often anglicised as Nicolson.

**MacNider** Mac an Fhigheadair

(gen. *Mhic an Fhigheadair*; voc. *a Mhic an Fhigheadair*)

"Son of the weaver or knitter". The occupational name is found in the place-name *Rubha an Fhigheadair* or Weaver's Point, a headland near Lochmaddy in North Uist.

**MacNiven** MacCrithein, MacIllenaoimh, MacNaomhain, MacNìomhain, MacRaoimhin

(gen. *MhicCrithein, MhicIllenaoimh, MhicNaomhain, MhicNìomhain, MhicRaoimhin*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

There are two Gaelic names, *MacIllenaoimh*, "son of the holy follower", and *MacNaomhain*, "son of the saint/holy man", the latter giving rise to the Argyll forms *MacCrithein* and *MacNìomhain* and to the Arran form *MacRaoimhin*.

**MacNoravich** Mac an Fhoirbhich

See **Elder**.

**MacPhail** MacPhàil

"Son of Pàl/Paul" which is also anglicised as MacFall. The MacPhails are known as *Clann Phàil*, "offspring of Paul", but in Gairloch as *Sìol Phàil*, "seed of Paul", a name they share with the MacKays of Creich in Sutherland.

**MacPhater** MacIllepheadair, MacPheadair

See **MacFater**.

**MacPhatrick** MacPhàdraig

(gen. *MhicPhàdraig*; voc. *a MhicPhàdraig*)

"Son of Pàdraig/Patrick or Peter". This name is also anglicised as Paterson.

**MacPhedran** MacPheadarain, MacPheidearain

(gen. *MhicPheadarain, MhicPheidearain*; voc. *a MhicPheadarain, a MhicPheidearain*)

"Son of little Peadar/Peter", showing diminutive forms of *Peadar*. In Glencoe *MacPheidearain* was

anglicised as Fletcher.

### **MacPhee** Mac a' Phì

(gen. *Mhic a' Phì*; voc. *a Mhic a' Phì*)

This ancient name began life as *MacDhubhshith*, "son of the black(-haired) one of peace", and gradually became simplified as *Mac a' Phì* which is also anglicised as Fee, MacFee and MacFie. *MacDhubhshith* itself became anglicised as Duffy and MacDuffie. MacPhee of Colonsay is known as *Mac a' Phì Chalbhasa* while MacPhee of Airds in Appin is *Mac a' Phì nan Àird*.

### **MacPherson** Mac a' Phearsain, Pearsanach

(gen. *Mhic a' Phearsain*, *Phearsanaich*; voc. *a Mhic a' Phearsain*, *a Phearsanaich*)

"Son of the parson". *Pearsanach* is an adjectival name and was used in Wester Ross and north Sutherland. *Mac a' Phearsain* is also anglicised as Parsons. The MacPhersons are known as *na Phearsanaich* especially in Wester Ross and north Sutherland, but the MacPhersons of Badenoch are *Clann Mhuirich (a' bhrochain)*, "offspring of Muireach/Murdoch (of the porridge)", while the MacPhersons of Invereshie are *Sliochd Ghilliosa*, "descendants of Gilliosa", with the MacPhersons of Skye being *na Cananaich*, "the people of the canon", a name shared with the Buchanans. MacPherson of Cluny is known as *MacMhuirich*, "son of Muireach/Murdoch", and as *Cluanaigh* or Cluny, a slogan of the clan.

### **MacQuarrie** MacGuair

(gen. *MhicGuair*; voc. *a MhicGuair*)

"Son of Guair", a personal name meaning "noble" no longer in use. The MacQuarries are *Clann Ghuaire*, "offspring of Guair", and MacQuarrie of Ulva is *MacGuair*.

### **MacQueen, MacQuien** MacAoidhein, MacCuain, MacCuinn, MacCuithein, MacCuthain, MacShuibhne

(gen. *MhicCuain*, *MhicCuinn*, *MhicCuithein*, *MhicCuthain*, *MhicShuibhne*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

The two English names originally came from different Gaelic sources. MacQuien was a Skye name based on *MacAoidhein*, "son of little Aodh/Hugh", which also had a by-form *MacCuithein*. Unfortunately people called MacCuithein were known as *Clann MhicCuithein chuir an t-sodail*, "The MacQuiens, expert in flattery". Many people called MacQuien in English changed to MacQueen which also comes from a variety of sources. *MacCuain* is used in Luining and may be a by-form of *MacAoidhein* or possibly of *MacShuain*, a name also found nowadays as *MacSuain*, "son of Svein", anglicised as MacSween and as MacSwan in Skye. The difference between *MacCuithein* and *MacCuain* can be seen in the description of the latter as *Clann MhicCuthain chuir nam breug*, "The MacCuthains, expert in lying", *MacCuthain* being an alternative spelling to *MacCuain*. *MacCuinn*, "son of Conn", was commonly found in Galloway and the south where *MacShuibhne*, "son of Suibhne", was also found. The MacQueens of the south and Argyll in particular were known as *Clann Shuibhne*, "offspring of Suibhne", a designation shared with the MacSweens of Skipness.

### **MacQuilken** MacCuilcein

(gen. *MhicCuilcein*; voc. *a MhicCuilcein*)

"Son of Cuilcean" which is a name suggesting thinness from *cuilc*, "reed". This name is also anglicised as Wilkin in Argyll and Wilkinson in Perthshire.

### **MacRae** MacRath

(gen. *MhicRath*; voc. *a MhicRath*)

"Son of grace or prosperity". The MacRaes are called *Clann MhicRath*, "offspring of MacRae" and in Wester Ross and north Sutherland as *na Crathaich*, "the MacRaes". The MacRaes were nicknamed *Clann MhicRath Mholach*, "the shaggy-haired MacRaes".

**MacRaid** MacRaghnaill, MacRàild, MacNéill

(gen. *MhicRaghnaill*, *MhicRàild*; voc. *a MhicRaghnaill*, *a MhicRàild*)

*MacRaghnaill* is "son of Ragnall/Ranald" and is also anglicised as MacCrindle. *MacRàild* is "son of Harald" but MacRaid may also be an anglicisation of *MacNéill* although this is not certain. The MacRaids of Petty near Inverness are *Clann Tarralaich*, "children of Harald", or *na Tarralaich*, "the Haralds", showing a tendency to replace an initial "H" in other languages with *T* in Gaelic.

**MacRitchie** MacRisnidh

(gen. *MhicRisnidh*; voc. *a MhicRisnidh*)

"Son of Ritchie", a diminutive form of Richard. This name was associated with the eastern Highlands but is today also common in Lewis.

**MacRobb** MacRob

(gen. *MhicRob*; voc. *a MhicRob*)

"Son of Rob/Robert".

**MacRobbie** MacRobaidh

(gen. *MhicRobaidh*; voc. *a MhicRobaidh*)

"Son of Robaidh/Robbie". This name was found in the eastern Highlands and is another example of Gaelic speakers adopting Scots personal names and creating patronymics from them.

**MacRobert** MacRaibeirt

(gen. *MhicRaibeirt*; voc. *a MhicRaibeirt*)

"Son of Raibeart/Robert".

**MacRory, MacRury** MacRuairidh

(gen. *MhicRuairidh*; voc. *a MhicRuairidh*)

"Son of Ruairidh/Roderick". The MacRurys of South Uist are known as *Sìol Ghoraidh*, "seed of Goraigh/Gordfrey or Godred", and were considered part of the MacDonalds of Canna and South Uist.

**MacRostie** MacDhrochain

(gen. *MhicDhrochain*; voc. *a MhicDhrochain*)

This Perthshire name is "son of Drostan", a Pictish personal name found in *Sgìre Dhrochain*, "Drostan's district", the Gaelic name for the Aberlour parish of Banffshire.

**MacRyrie** MacRaoiridh, MacRoithridh

(gen. *MhicRaoiridh*, *MhicRoithridh*; voc. *a MhicRaoiridh*, *a MhicRoithridh*)

These names appear to be variants of **MacRory**. *MacRoithridh* is associated with Wester Ross.

**MacSherry** MacSiridh, MacTiridh

(gen. *MhicSiridh*, *MhicTiridh*; voc. *a MhicSiridh*, *a MhicTiridh*)

"Son of Searrach", possibly meaning "foal". See **MacDonald** and **MacKinnon**.

**MacSorley** MacShomhairle

(gen. *MhicShomhairle*; voc. *a MhicShomhairle*)



"Son of Somhairle/Somerled", from *Sumarliðr*; "summer warrior", a Norse personal name also anglicised as Samuel. *MacShomhairle* is also anglicised as MacCurley. The MacSorleys of Glen Nevis, also known as the Camerons of Glen Nevis, were *Sliochd Shomhairle Ruaidh*, "descendants of red-haired Somerled".

**MacSporran** Mac an Sporain

(gen. *Mhic an Sporain*; voc. *a Mhic an Sporain*)

"Son of the treasurer or purser". This name is associated with Gigha.

**MacSwan, MacSween** MacSuain

(gen. *MhicSuain*; voc. *a MhicSuain*)

"Son of Suain/Svein", a Norse personal name or "Son of Suibhne", a Gaelic personal name. The MacSweens of Skipness were *Clann Shuibhne*, "offspring of Suibhne", which contains the Gaelic name *Suibhne* rather than Norse *Svein*. See **MacQueen**.

**MacTaggart** Mac an t-Sagairt

(gen. *Mhic an t-Sagairt*; voc. *a Mhic an t-Sagairt*)

"Son of the priest". This name is also anglicised as Taggart.

**MacTavish** MacThàmhais

See **MacCavish**.

**MacTear** Mac an t-Saoir

See **MacIntyre**.

**MacThomas** MacThómais

(gen. *MhicThómais*; voc. *a MhicThómais*)

"Son of Tómas/Thomas". This name is usually anglicised as Thomson as is associated with Glenshee.

**MacTurk** MacTuirc

(gen. *MhicTuirc*; voc. *a MhicTuirc*)

"Son of the boar", from *torc*. This name was found in Galloway.

**MacUsbaig** MacUsbaig

(gen. *MhicUsbaig*; voc. *a MhicUsbaig*)

"Son of Usbag/Uspakr", a Norse personal name meaning "unruly, wild". This name is associated with Berneray, Harris and Scalpay but died out in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**MacVanish** MacMhànais

See **MacManus**.

**MacVannan** MacMhannain

See **Buchanan**.

**MacVarish** MacBharrais, MacMhairis, MacMharais

(gen. *MhicBharrais*, *MhicMharais*; voc. *a MhicBharrais*, *a MhicMharais*)

"Son of **Maurice**", the second Gaelic spelling being closer to the original.

**MacVean** MacBheathain

See **MacBain**.

**MacVeigh, MacVey** MacBheatha

See **MacBeath**.

**MacVicar** Mac a' Bhiocair, Mac a' Phiocair

(gen. *Mhic a' Bhiocair, Mhic a' Phiocair*; voc. *a Mhic a' Bhiocair, a Mhic a' Phiocair*)

"Son of the vicar". *Mac a' Phiocair* is simply a variant of *Mac a' Bhiocair*.

**MacVitie** Mac a' Bhiataich, Mac a' Bhiataigh

(gen. *Mhic a' Bhiataich, Mhic a' Bhiataigh*; voc. *a Mhic a' Bhiataich, a Mhic a' Bhiataigh*)

"Son of the food provider". The second Gaelic spelling shows an older genitive form of the noun which refers to a *biadhach*, simplified as *biatach*, a holder of land on the condition that he provided food to troops billeted upon him by a clan chief or other military leader. This system of billeting was known as *coinmheadh* which became anglicised as "conveth", and was the old name of the parish of Laurencekirk in Kincardineshire.

**MacVurathy** MacMhuirheartaich, MacMhurardaich

See **MacKirdie**.

**MacVurich** MacFuirigh, MacMhuirich, MacUirigh

See **Currie**.

**MacWattie** MacBhàididh

(gen. *MhicBhàididh*; voc. *a MhicBhàididh*)

"Son of Bhàididh/Walter (Wattie)". This name, like MacRobbie, MacRitchie and others, was found in the eastern Highlands where Gaelic-speaking people had adopted Scots personal names such as Robbie, Ritchie and Wattie which led to the development of new Gaelic patronymics.

**MacWhannell** MacConaill, MacIllechonail

(gen. *MhicConaill, MhicIllechonail*; voc. *a MhicConaill, a MhicIllechonail*)

"Son of Conall" and "son of the follower of Conall". *MacIllechonail* is associated not only with Carrick and Galloway, but also Argyll and Perthshire. See **Connell** and **MacConnell**.

**MacWhinnie** MacCoinnigh

(gen. *MhicCoinnigh*; voc. *a MhicCoinnigh*)

"Son of Coinneach/Kenneth". This name was found in the south, and shows an old genitive form of the personal name *Coinneach*. See **MacKenzie**.

**MacWhirter** Mac a' Chruiteir

See **Harper**.

**MacWilliam** MacUilleim

(gen. *MhicUilleim*; voc. *a MhicUilleim*)

"Son of Uilleam/William". This name is also anglicised as Williamson and Wilson.

**Malcolm** MacMhaolchaluim

See **Callum**.

**Malloch** Mac Iain Bhallaich, Mac Iain Mhalaich

(gen. *Mhic Iain Bhallaich*, *Mhic Iain Mhalaich*; voc. *a Mhic Iain Bhallaich*, *a Mhic Iain Mhalaich*)  
Although the first Gaelic name above is "son of freckled Iain/John", the second form may be more likely because the MacGregors of Balhaldie in southern Perthshire were known as *Clann Iain Mhalaich*, "the offspring of shaggy-haired Iain/John", which may make *Mac Iain Mhalaich* more probable as the source of Malloch.

### **Manson** Mairsean

(gen. *Mhairsein*; voc. *a Mhairseanaich*)

These names are firstly an anglicisation then a later gaelicisation of the Norse name *Magnusson* and were used in north Sutherland where the Mansons were called *na Mairseanaich*.

### **Mantach**

This name, associated with Moray and Speyside, comes from the Gaelic adjective *manntach* describing someone stuttering or otherwise hesitant in speech, but despite the name's associations with the north-east, *MacIllemhanntaich* was a name associated with Brae Lochaber and originally Barra, the name being anglicised as MacGillvantic and apparently now obsolete.

### **Marno, Marnoch** Màrnach

(gen. *Mhàrnach*; voc. *a Mhàrnaich*)

This is an adjectival name referring to someone from Mar in Aberdeenshire.

### **Marquis** MacMharcais

(gen. *MhicMharcais*; voc. *a MhicMharcais*)

"Son of Marcas/Mark". This name is associated with Argyll.

### **Marr** Màrr

(gen. *Mhàirr*; voc. *a Mhàrraich*)

This is a rare example of a placename, Mar in Aberdeenshire, being used in Gaelic as a surname.

### **Martin** MacIllemhàrtainn, MacMhàrtainn, Màrtainn

(gen. *MhicIllemhàrtainn*, *MhicMhàrtainn*, *Mhàrtainn*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

These names are "son of the follower of Màrtainn/Martin", "son of Martin" and "Martin" respectively. *Màrtainn* itself operates like other adjectival surnames. The Martins of Skye are *Clann MhicMhàrtainn* showing that *MacMhàrtainn* was the usual form of the name there before the simpler *Màrtainn* became current.

### **Mather** Màtar

(gen. *Mhàtair*; voc. *a Mhàtaraich*)

This north Sutherland name is a gaelicisation of the English one. Locally they Mathers were known as *na Mhàtaraich*.

### **Matheson** MacMhatha, MacMhathain, Mathanach, Matharnach, Matasan, Mothanach

(gen. *MhicMhatha*, *MhicMhathain*, *Mhathanaich*, *Mhatharnaich*, *Mhatasain*, *Mhothanaich*; voc. *a MhicMhatha*, *a MhicMhathain*, *a Mhathanaich*, *a Mhatharnaich*, *a Mhatasanaich*, *a Mhothanaich*)

*MacMhatha* is "son of Matha/Matthew", a name used in Kintyre and Perthshire, while *MacMhathain*, "son of the bear" is more usual further north and while usually anglicised as Matheson became MacMahon around Loch Shin and MacMann in Glenlivet. *Mathanach* which is fairly common, *Matharnach* used in Wester Ross, and *Mothanach* used in north Sutherland, are adjectival surnames based on *Mathan*, the last also anglicised as Moannach. *Matasan* is a gaelicisation of the English name. The Mathesons of the north are known as *Clann Mhathain*,

"offspring of Mathan", and as *na Mathanaich* (or *na Mothanaich* in north Sutherland). The collective name *na Matasanaich* is a gaelicisation of the English name. The Mathesons of Loch Shin, also known as the MacMahons of Loch Shin, are *Sìol Mhathain*, "seed of Mathan". This variety of names in Gaelic show two separate origins, one referring to Matthew and the other to Mathan. See **MacMahon**. Matheson of Lochalsh is *Mac Mhathain*.

**May** Mac a' Mhiadhaich

(gen. *Mhic a' Mhiadhaich*; voc. *a Mhic a' Mhiadhaich*)

"Son of the esteemed one". This name is associated with Kintyre.

**Mearns** MacMhaoirn

(gen. *MhicMhaoirn*; voc. *a MhicMhaoirn*)

This name originates in either the Mearns of Renfrewshire or of Kincardineshire and has been adopted into Gaelic.

**Meechan** MacMhiadhchain

See **MacMeechan**.

**Mellis, Mellish** MacMhaoliosa

(gen. *MhicMhaoliosa*; voc. *a MhicMhaoliosa*)

"Son of the devotee of Jesus". In most instances, people called *MacMhaoliosa* altered their name slightly to *MacIlliosa*, commonly anglicised as Gillies. These anglicised names have dropped the *Mac* of the Gaelic original.

**Menzies** Mèinn, Mèinnearach

(gen. *Mhèinn, Mhèinnearaich*; voc. *a Mhèinnearaich, a Mhèinnearaich*)

This was originally a Norman-French name *de Meyners* referring to the place-name *Mesniers* which was adopted into Gaelic and English. Menzies of that Ilk is *Am Mèinnearach Mór*, "the Great Menzies". The "z" in English is used in place of an old letter called "yogh" which indicated palatalisation of the preceding consonant developing into the "ng" sometimes heard in some pronunciations of "Menzies".

**Milfrederick** MacIllephàdraig

(gen. *MhicIllephàdraig*; voc. *a MhicIllephàdraig*)

"Son of the follower of Pàdraig/Patrick", the English form showing the reduction of *Mac* to *M* and the substitution of "Frederick" for *Phàdraig*.

**Millan** MacMhaoilein, MacMhaolain

See **MacMillan**.

**Milligan, Milliken** MacMhaolagain

See **MacMillan**.

**Milne** MacMhaoilein, MacMhaolain

See **MacMillan**.

**Milroy** MacIlleruaidh

See **Gilroy**.

**Milvaine** MacIllebhàin

See **Bain**.

**Moannach** Mothanach

See **Matheson**.

**Moggach**

This name is found particularly in Banffshire where it started off as a nickname from Gaelic *mùgach* meaning "gloomy, morose, glum" then developed into a surname in English but not in Gaelic, which is similar to **Begg** and **More** and unlike **Bain** and **Dunn** but unlike **Bain** or **Dunn**.

**Monk** MacMhanachain

(gen. *MhicMhanachain*; voc. *a MhicMhanachain*)

"Son of the little monk". This name is associated with Benbecula where it was also anglicised as MacManachan.

**Montgomery** MacGumaraid

(gen. *MhicGumaraid*; voc. *a MhicGumaraid*)

This name is the subject of some debate, one view holding that Montgomery comes from the name of a place near Calvados in Normandy, while the other suggests that the second element is the Germanic personal name *Gumarik*, "powerful man". If the latter view is correct, *MacGumaraid* could well contain the same personal name preceded by *Mac* rather than *Mont*.

**More**

The Gaelic adjective *mór*, "big, great", is the basis of this surname which began as a nickname which never developed into a Gaelic surname, the conjectural form *MacIllehmóir* being unknown. See **Begg**.

**Morgan** MacMhorgain, Morgan, Morganach

(gen. *MhicMhorgain*, *Mhorgain*, *Mhorganaich*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)

"Son of Morgan" which is an old possibly Pictish name suggesting "sea white". See **MacKay**.

**Morran** MacMhoirein

See **MacMorran**.

**Morrison** MacIllelmoire, MacMhoirein, Moireasdan

(gen. *MhicIllelmoire*, *MhicMhoirein*, *Mhoireasdain*; voc. *a MhicIllelmoire*, *a MhicMhoirein*, *a Mhoireasdanaich*)

*MacIllelmoire* is "son of the devotee of saint is Moire/Mary" and the usual Gaelic name corresponding to Morrison although it is also anglicised as Gilmore/Gilmour. *MacMhoirein*, "son of Mughron", is anglicised as Morrison in Islay but as MacMorran or MacMorrin in Argyll and Galloway. *Moireasdan* appears to be a gaelicisation of the English name by analogy with *Fearghasdan*, Ferguson, and *Fionnlasdan*, Finlayson, but in fact stems from *Ó Muirgheasain*, "descendant of Muirgheasan", a name brought from Donegal by a branch of a family who became poets to the MacLeods and judges in Lewis. The Morrisons are *Clann MhicIllelmoire*, "offspring of Morrison", or *na Moireasdanaich*, "the Morrisons", but in Lewis they are known as *Clann a' Bhrithheimh*, "offspring of the judge", given the role in judicial matters of the Morrisons who were one of the hereditary learned families of Gaelic society.

**Mowat** Mothaid

(gen. *Mhothaid*; voc. *a Mhothaidich*)

This name is said to be of French origin from *mont haut*, "high mountain", and in north Sutherland was gaelicised as *Mothaid*. Locally the Mowats were called *na Mothaidich*.

**Mucklehose** MacIllethòmhais  
See **Hosier**.

**Munn** MacIllemhunna, MacMhunna, Munna  
(gen. *MhicIllemhunna*, *MhicMhunna*, *Mhunna*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)  
"Son of the follower of Munna", "son of Munna" and "Munna" are the Gaelic originals which feature a by-form of the name of the saint *Fionndan* or Fintan derived from *M' Fhionn òg*, "my young Fionn", referring to Fintan of Taghmon in Ireland.

**Munro** MacÀdaidh, Mac an Fhoirbhich, Mac an Rothaich, Rothach  
(gen. *MhicÀdaidh*, *Mhic an Fhoirbhich*, *Mhic an Rothaich*, *Rothaich*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)  
*MacÀdaidh*, "son of Àdaidh/Adie or little Adam", was anglicised as Munro in some instances in Easter Ross. *Mac an Fhoirbhich* "son of the elder" became Munro in some cases in Argyll, especially around Inveraray. See **Elder**. *Mac an Rothaich* "son of the person from Rotha/Roe" and the simpler *Rothach* "person from Roe" in Derry in Ireland are the usual Gaelic names corresponding to Munro. The Munros as a whole are *Clann an Rothaich*, "offspring of the Roe person", and *na Rothaich*. Munro of Fowlis is known as *Fear Foghlais* or *Tighearna Foghlais*, "laird of Fowlis".

**Murchie** MacMhurchaidh  
See **MacMurchie**.

**Murchison** MacCalmain, MacMhuirich, MacMhurchaidh  
(gen. *MhicCalmain*, *MhicMhuirich*, *MhicMhurchaidh*; voc. *a* goes before the genitive forms)  
*MacCalmain*, "son of Calman/little dove", is anglicised as Murchison in Lochalsh and elsewhere as MacCalman. The chief of the Lochalsh Murchisons is *Mac Calmain*. See **Dove**. *MacMhuirich* is "son of Muireach", and anglicised in different areas as Currie, MacCurrie, MacMurray, MacVurich, Murchison, Murdoch and Murray, while *MacMhurchaidh* is "son of Murchadh/Murdo" and also anglicised as MacMurchie, MacMurdo, Murchie, Murdoch and Murphy.

**Murdoch** MacMhuirich, MacMhurchaidh  
See **Currie** and **Murchison**.

**Murphy** MacMhurchaidh  
See **Murchison**.

**Murray** MacMhuirich, Moirea, Moireach  
(gen. *MhicMhuirich*, *Mhoirea*, *Mhoirich*; voc. *a* *MhicMhuirich*, *a* *Mhoirich*, *a* *Mhoirich*)  
*MacMhuirich*, "son of Muireach", became Murray in Galloway. See **Currie**. However *Moireach*, an adjectival name indicating someone from Moray, is the commonest source of Murray and *Moirea* is a local form of this used in north Sutherland. The Murrays outwith Galloway are *na Moirich* and in Atholl are *Sìol Mhoirich* or *Sìol Mhoiridh* which appear to be "seed of the Moray man". The Duke of Atholl's title in Gaelic is *Am Moireach (Mór)*, "the (Great) Murray" originally "the (great) Moray man".

**Neil** Mac an Philidh

See **MacNeillie**.

**Neilson** MacNéill

See **MacNeil**.

**Nicolson** MacNeacail

See **MacNicol**.

**Niven** MacNaomhain

See **MacNiven**.

**Noble** MacNòbaill, Nòball

(gen. *MhicNòbaill*, *Nòbaill*; voc. *a MhicNòbaill*, *a Nòballaich*)

This was originally the English name Noble which in Wester Ross was amended to *MacNòbaill*, in more recent times simplified to *Nòball*.

**Ochiltree** MacUchtraigh

See **MacAughtrie**.

**Ogg**

This name originates in the Gaelic adjective *òg*, “young”, which may have been used as a nickname which then developed into a surname in English but not in Gaelic, there being no such Gaelic surname as *MacIllòig*. Several other Gaelic adjectives formed the basis of English and Gaelic surnames such as **Bain**, but see **Begg**.

**Ogilvie** MacIllebhuidhe

(gen. *MhicIllebhuidhe*; voc. *a MhicIllebhuidhe*)

This is understood to be a Gaelic name that has shifted from *Ó Gille* to *MacIlle*, the latter being a very common form of surname in Scotland where *Ó* names are rare. If this is a Gaelic name it is "son of the yellow (-haired) one". The Ogilvies are known as *Sìol Illechrìosd*, "seed of Gillechrìosd/Gilchrist", itself meaning "follower of Jesus".

**Omay, Omey** Mac a' Mhiadhaich

See **May**. This Lorne name appears originally to have been an *Ó* rather than a *Mac* name.

**Orchardson** MacUrchadain

(gen. *MhicUrchadain*; voc. *a MhicUrchadain*)

"Son of Urchadan/Urquhart", showing an unusual instance of a surname rather than a first name being used as the defining element of a patronymic. An earlier anglicisation was Urquhartson which seems to have been completely replaced by Orchardson.

**Park** MacPhàic, MacPhairce

(gen. *MhicPhàic*, *MhicPhairce*)

It is not clear what personal name is contained in this patronymic. The Parks of Uist were called *Clann MhicPhàic* and *Clann MhicPhairce* but the name is not now common. *MacPhàic* is also anglicised as MacKillop in Berneray near North Uist.

**Parsons** Mac a' Phearsain

See **MacPherson**.

**Paterson** MacPhàdraig, Peadarsan

(gen. *MhicPhàdraig, Pheadarsain*; voc. *a MhicPhàdraig, a Pheadarsanaich*)

*MacPhàdraig* is "son of Pàdraig/Patrick or Peter" also anglicised as MacPhatrick, while *Peadarsan* is a gaelicisation of the English name.

**Patience** Pàisteanach

(gen. *Phàisteanach*; voc. *a Phàisteanach*)

This originally English name, which may be a development from the name of St Patient, is associated with Easter Ross.

**Peters** MacIllephheadair, MacPheadair

See **MacFater**.

**Petrie** Pitridh

(gen. *Phitridh*; voc. *a Phitridh*)

*Pitridh* is a gaelicisation of the English name which is a diminutive of Peter.

**Polson** MacPhòil

(gen. *MhicPhòil*; voc. *a MhicPhòil*)

"Son of Pòl/Paul". This name is associated with Gairloch and is a variant of the more common *MacPhàil* which features the older personal name *Pàl* rather than *Pòl*, both equivalent to English Paul.

**Pope** Pàp

(gen. *Phàip*; voc. *a Phàpaich*)

The Gaelic name used in north Sutherland is a gaelicisation of the English name which originally designated any member of the clergy. The Popes were known locally as *na Pàpaich*.

**Purser** Mac an Sporain

See **MacSporran**.

**Rankin** MacFhraing

(gen. *MhicFhraing*; voc. *a MhicFhraing*)

"Son of Frang/Francis". The Rankins of Mull were *Clann MhicRaing*, "offspring of Francis" and *Clann Duiligh* although this latter name is unclear. In Glencoe the Rankins were *Clann MhicFhraing*, the same name as in Mull as *fh* is silent in Gaelic.

**Reid** MacIlleruaidh, Réid, Réideach, Roid, Roideach

(gen. *MhicIlleruaidh, Réid, Réidich, Roid, Roidich*; voc. *a MhicIlleruaidh, a Réidich, a Réidich, a Roidich, a Roidich*)

The English name means "red-haired" or "ruddy". For *MacIlleruaidh* see **Gilroy**. The other names are gaelicisations of the English name, *Roid* and *Roideach* being associated with north Sutherland.

**Reoch, Revie, Riach** MacIlleriabhaich

See **Darroch**.

**Ritchie** MacRisnidh

See **MacRitchie**.

**Robertson** MacDhonnchaidh, Robasdan, Robson



(gen. *MhicDhonnchaidh*, *Robasdain*, *Robsoin*; voc. *a MhicDhonnchaidh*, *a Robasdanaich*, *a Robsonaich*)

*MacDhonnchaidh*, "son of Donnchadh/Duncan", is also anglicised as Duncan and Duncanson and is associated primarily with Atholl, Robertson of Struan in that district being *Mac Dhonnchaidh*. *Robasdan* which is widely used, and *Robson* which is used in Easter Ross, are gaelicisations of the English Robertson. The Robertsons are known as *Clann Donnchaidh*, "offspring of Duncan", a designation shared with the Duncans, and as *na Robasdanaich*, "the Robertsons", while those in Strath Ardlie are known as *na Robasdanaich Ruadha*, "the red-haired Robertsons".

### **Rose Ròs**

(gen. *Ròis*; voc. *a Ròsaich*)

The origin of this name seems to have been in England from where a family called de Ros came to Ayrshire initially before moving further north. Nowadays the name is associated with Kilravock in Nairnshire which was the seat of *na Ròsaich*, "the Roses".

### **Ross Ros**

(gen. *Rois*; voc. *a Rosaich*)

This is a rare example of a place-name used as a surname in Gaelic. The Rosses are *Clann Anndrais*, "offspring of Anndras/Andrew", and *na Rosaich*, "the Rosses".

### **Roy MacIlleruaidh**

See **Gilroy**.

### **Ryrie MacRaoidh**

See **MacRyrie**.

### **Scammell Sgaimeal**

(gen. *Sgaimeil*; voc. *a Sgaimealaich*)

*Sgaimeal* is a gaelicisation of the English name which denotes someone who worked in a meat market.

### **Shannon Mac O Seannaig**

(gen. *Mhic O Seannaig*; voc. *a Mhic O Seannaig*)

This name was found in Arran and is one of the few *O* names in Scotland. The personal name here appears to be based on *sean*, "old", possibly indicating wisdom.

### **Sharpe MacIllechiarrain**

See **MacIlherron**.

### **Shaw MacIllesheathanaich, MacShithich, Seagha**

(gen. *MhicIllesheathanaich*, *MhicShithich*, *Sheagha*; voc. *a MhicIllesheathanaich*, *a MhicShithich*, *a Sheaghaich*)

*MacIllesheathanaich* appears to be a development from the more basic *Seagha* which was originally *seaghdha*, "stately, sedate". *MacShithich*, "son of Sitheach", is also anglicised as Keith and Shiach, especially in Moray. The Shaws are generally *Clann MhicSheagha*, "offspring of the son of Seagha", or *Clann Sheagha*, "offspring of Seagha", but in Argyll are *Clann MhicIllesheathanaich*, "offspring of the son of the follower of saint Seagha", and in Tordarroch near Farr in Inverness-shire they are *Clann Àidh*, "offspring of Àdh", and their chief *Mac Àidh*, "son of Àdh", which may be a by-form of *Àdhamh*, "Adam".

**Shiach** MacShithich  
See **Keith**.

**Sillars, Silver** Mac an Airgid

(gen. *Mhic an Airgid*; voc. *a Mhic an Airgid*)

"Son of silver". This name is associated with Arran where it was anglicised in the 18<sup>th</sup> century as MacInurignach then went through a variety of spellings until it became Sillars and Silver. Originally the name may have been given to a silversmith.

**Sim** MacShimidh

See **Jamieson**.

**Sinclair** Mac na Ceàrda, Mac na Ceàrdaich, Singleir

(gen. *Mhic na Ceàrda, Mhic na Ceàrdaich, Shingleir*; voc. *a Mhic na Ceàrda, a Mhic na Ceàrdaich, a Shingleirich*)

Sinclair is closely associated with Caithness, but the name is originally that of a place in Normandy. *Mac na Ceàrda* is "son of the tinker" and has developed into *Mac na Ceàrdaich* which looks as though it means "son of the smithy", although both these names are unusual in that the form of the defining noun is feminine in gender. *Mac na Ceàrda* is also anglicised as **Caird** while *Singleir* is a gaelicisation of the English name. The Sinclairs are *Clann na Ceàrda* or *Clann na Ceàrdaich* whose chief is the Earl of Caithness or *Morair Ghallaibh*.

**Skinner** Sginnearach

(gen. *Sginnearaich*; voc. *a Sginnearaich*)

This name, found in Easter Ross where Skinnertown or *Baile nan Sginnearach* is located, was originally English then gaelicised, a skinner being someone who worked with animal hides. In the fishing villages of Easter Ross some families called Skinner or *Sginnearach* were given the tee-name *Tàlach*, which may designate someone from Kintail, in order to distinguish them from other Skinners given the frequency with which the name occurred.

**Skene** Sgéineach

(gen. *Sgéinich*; voc. *a Sgéinich*)

This adjectival Gaelic name denotes someone from Skene in Aberdeenshire. The Skenes are known as *Clann Donnchaidh Mhàrr*, "offspring of Donnchadh/Duncan of Mar", and *Sìol Sgéine*, "seed of Skene".

**Smith** Mac a' Ghobhainn

(gen. *Mhic a' Ghobhainn*; voc. *a Mhic a' Ghobhainn*)

See **MacGowan**.

**Stewart** Combach, Stiubhart

(gen. *Chombaich, Stiubhairt*; voc. *a Chombaich, a Stiubhartaich*)

Stewart comes from "steward" and developed into *Stiubhart* in Gaelic. *Combach*, with the similar sense of "companion", was used in Appin and Lawers instead of *Stiubhart* and is also found in *Mac a' Chombaich* which becomes Colquhoun or MacCombie, although this is also said to have originally been *MacThomaidh*, "son of Tomaidh/Tommy". The Stewarts are called *na Stiubhartaich* generally, but *na Combaich* in Appin and Lawers. The Stewarts of Garth were nicknamed *Clann Dubh-shùileach*, "dark-eyed offspring", or *na Dubh-shùilich*, "the dark-eyed ones". Stewart of Appin is *Mac Iain Stiubhairt na h-Apenn*, "son of John Stewart of Appin".

**Stronach** Mac an t-Srònaich

(gen. *Mhic an t-Srònaich*; voc. *a Mhic an t-Srònaich*)

"Son of the nose one", meaning someone with a prominent nose rather than an inquisitive nature. This name is used in Lewis as a sort of bogey-man term and is based on the name of a criminal who was active in the island in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and who allegedly said *Ma chumas mi beanntan Ùig, cumaidh beanntan Ùig mi*, "If I keep to the mountains of Uig, the mountains of Uig will keep me". The Gaelic name is often thought to be a nickname but appears to have originated in Easter Ross.

**Stuart** Stiubhart

See **Stewart**.

**Sutherland** Sùlan, Sutharlainn, Sutharlan

(gen. *Shùlain*, *Sutharlainn*, *Shutharlain*; voc. *a Shùlanaich*, *a Shutharlainnich*, *a Shutharlanaich*)

Like *Ros*, this is a rare example in Gaelic of a place-name being used as a surname, the interesting thing being that the Gaelic surname is based on the English name of the county which in Gaelic is *Cataibh*. The form *Sùlan* was used in north Sutherland. The Sutherlands are known as *na Sutharlanaich* or *na Sutharlainnich* and in north Sutherland itself as *na Sùlanaich*. The chief of the Sutherlands was *Morair Chat*, "lord of the Cat people", which was a tribal designation referring to the people of Sutherland and Caithness. The title was later elevated to *Diùc Chat*, "Duke of the Cat people".

**Taggart** Mac an t-Sagairt

See **MacTaggart**.

**Tallach** Tàileach, Talach

(gen. *Thàilich*, *Thàlaich*; voc. *a Thàilich*, *a Thàlaich*)

This name may denote someone from Kintail. *Talach* was used in the fishing villages of Easter Ross as a tee-name for people called Skinner. See **MacDougall**.

**Tawse** MacThàmhais

See **MacCavish**.

**Taylor** Mac an Tàilleir, Tàillear

(gen. *Mhic an Tàilleir*, *Tàilleir*; voc. *a Mhic an Tàilleir*, *a Thàilleir*)

"Son of the tailor" or simply "tailor". The Perthshire surname Macintailor has died out and been replaced by Taylor.

**Thom** MacThom

See **Combe**.

**Thomson** MacThómais

See **MacThomas**.

**Tolmie** Talmhach, Tolmach

(gen. *Thalmhaich*, *Tholmaich*; voc. *a Thalmhaich*, *a Tholmaich*)

This uncertain name may have an origin in a place called Holm or *Tolm*, the Gaelic form showing the tendency for initial "H" in other languages to be replaced by *T* in Gaelic. The Tolmies were known as *Clann Talmhach* and were closely linked to the MacLeods.

**Tosh** Mac an Tòisich

See **MacIntosh**.

**Train** Mac O Dhrain, Mac O Dreain

See **Drain**.

**Turner** Mac an Tuairneir

(gen. *Mhic an Tuairneir*; voc. *a Mhic an Tuairneir*)

"Son of the turner", an occupational surname denoting a lathe-worker.

**Tyre** Mac an t-Saoir

See **MacIntyre**.

**Urquhart** Urchadan, Urchadainn

(gen. & voc. *Urchadain, Urchadainn*)

This is a Pictish place-name meaning "woodside" used as a surname. The Urquharts are *Clann Urchadain* or *Clann Urchadainn*.

**Vass** Bhàsa, Bhodhsa

(gen. unchanged; voc *a Bhàsaich, a Bhodhsaich*)

This surname of French origin meaning "valleys" is associated with Orkney, Caithness and Sutherland where the Vasses are known as *na Bhàsaich* or *na Bhodhsaich*. Watson (1976) mentions a well near Nigg called *Tobar Alaidh Bhodhsa*, "Ali Vass's well".

**Walker** Mac an Fhùcadair

See **MacKnockater**.

**Wallace** Ualas

(gen. *Ualais*; voc. *Ualasaich*)

Wallace indicates not necessarily a Welsh person but more likely a descendant of a Briton of Strathclyde, and *Ualas* is a Gaelic form of the name. Thus, Wallace may essentially mean the same thing as **Galbraith**.

**Ward** Mac a' Bhàird

See **Baird**.

**Warnock** MacIllemhearnaig

See **Graham**.

**Watson** MacBhàtair

(gen. *MhicBhàtair*; voc. *a MhicBhàtair*)

"Son of Bhàtar/Walter".

**Weaver** Mac an Fhigheadair

See **MacNider**.

**Weir** Mac a' Mhaoir, Mac an Fhuibhir

(gen. *Mhic a' Mhaoir, Mhic an Fhuibhir*; voc. *a Mhic a' Mhaoir, a Mhic an Fhuibhir*)

Weir may be an anglicisation of two separate names. *Mac a' Mhaoir*, "son of the official", is a name long associated with Dunbartonshire, while people in Cowal called *Mac an Fhuibhir*, "son of the hireling or attendant", had their name anglicised as MacNair and Weir.

**Whannell** MacConaill, MacIllechonail  
See **MacWhannell**.

**Whiston** MacÙisdein  
See **MacCutcheon**.

**Whyte** MacIllebhàin  
See **Bain**.

**Wilkin, Wilkinson** MacCuilcein  
See **MacQuilken**.

**Williamson, Wilson** MacUilleim  
See **MacWilliam**.

**Winning** MacIlleghuinnein  
(gen. *MhicIlleghuinnein*; voc. *a MhicIlleghuinnein*)  
"Son of the follower of Finnean/Finian". This name is interesting in that a Brythonic form of Finnean beginning with *G* appears to be the basis of the name, suggesting that the Brythonic form of the name remained in use in Strathclyde after Gaelic had supplanted Brythonic as the native language.

**Wright** Mac an t-Saoir  
See **MacIntyre**.

## Section 4

### Female First Names - Gaelic to English

The names in this section are listed in alphabetical order of the Gaelic names. The purpose of this section is to act as a reverse listing and complement to Section 1, and most names are not explained here as they already have been above. However, some do appear here which have no equivalent in English and are thus absent from Section 1. These are explained as well as their genitive and vocative forms shown.

**Aileas, Ailios, Ailis** Alice

**Àine** Amy

**Aithbhreac** Effie

**Anabal** Annabella, Annabelle

**Anna** Ann, Anna, Anne

**Aralaid, Àrathaid** Harriet

**Bàbag, Barabal** Barbara

**Beasa, Beasag, Beasaidh, Beisidh** Bessie

**Beathag** Beatrice, Beth, Rebecca, Sophia

**Beataidh, Beididh, Beitidh** Betty

**Beatsag** Betsy

**Bhulag** Williamina

**Brighde** Bridget

**Cairistiona** Christina, Christine

**Caiteirein** Catherine, Katherine

**Caitir** Catherine, Katherine

**Caitlin** Cathleen, Kathleen

**Caitriona** Catherine, Katherine

**Caomhag**

(gen. *Caomhaig*; voc. *a Chaomhag*)

*Caomh* means "gentle", and *Caomhag* was a saint whose name is the female equivalent of *Caomhan* which is anglicised as Kevin. *Caomhag* was associated with Cumbræ and is commemorated in the

name of St Quivox in Ayrshire.

**Catrìona** Catherine, Katherine

**Catróna** Catherine, Katherine

**Cé** Kay

**Ceana, Ceanag** Kenna

**Ceat, Ceit** Kate

**Ciorstag, Ciorstaidh** Kirsty

**Crìosaidh** Chrissie

**Crìosdan** Christina, Christine

**Deònaid** Janet

**Diorbhail, Diorbhorghail** Devorgilla, Dorothy

**Doileag** Dolina, Dolly

**Ealasaid** Ailsa, Elizabeth, Elsie, Elspeth

**Ealga** Helga

**Eibhlin** Evelyn

**Eifeag** Effie

**Eilidh** Helen

**Eilispidh** Elizabeth, Elsie, Elspeth

**Eiric** Henrietta

**Eimhir**

(unchanged in gen. & voc.)

This goddess name is known today thanks to the poetry of Sorley MacLean and his collection *Dàin do Eimhir* published in 1943.

**Eithne** Ethna

**Eóraidh** Dorothy

**Eubha** Eve

**Fionnghal** Fiona, Flora

**Flòrag, Flòraidh** Flora

**Frangag** Frances

**Fraoch** Heather

**Giorsal, Goirseil** Grace, Grizzell

**Gormail** Gormelia

**Gràinne**

(gen. *Gràinne*; voc. *a Ghràinne*)

The origin of this name is unclear but *Gràinne* was a figure in Gaelic mythology who was said to have fallen in love with the warrior *Diarmaid* who according to one version of the tale met his death after being gored by a wild boar in Glenshee.

**Griseal** Grace

**Heanag** Henrietta

**Isbeil, Iseabail** Isabel, Isobel

**Lìsidh** Lizzie

**Liùsag, Liùsaidh** Louise, Lucy

**Magaidh** Maggie

**Maighread, Maighrearad** Margaret

**Màili** May, Molly

**Mairead, Mairearad** Margaret

**Màiri** Mary

**Màrad, Margaid, Marghrad** Margaret

**Marsail, Marsaili,** Marjory

**Marta** Martha

**Meadhbh** Maeve

**Mearad** Margaret

**Mèarag** Mary

**Mearan** Marion



**Meig** Meg

**Milde** Amelia

**Moire** Mary

**Moireach** Martha

**Moirearad** Marion

**Mór** Marion, Sarah

**Mórag**, Morag, Sarah

**Muire** Mary

**Muireall, Muirgheal** Muriel

**Murdag** Murdina

**Oighrig** Effie, Erica, Euphemia, Harriet, Henrietta

**Peigi** Peggy

**Raghailt, Raghnaid, Ragnailt, Raicheal, Raonaid** Rachael, Rachel

**Rìoghnach**

(gen. *Rìoghnaich*; voc. *a Rìoghnach*)

This name, which suggests “royal”, is often thought of as Irish but was used in Carrick and Galloway, notably in the family of the Earls of Carrick.

**Seàrlaid** Charlotte

**Seasag, Seasaidh** Jessie

**Séine** Jane

**Seonag**, Joan, Joanne

**Seònaid** Janet, Shona

**Seórd, Seórdag, Seòrdag** Georgina

**Seumag** Jemima

**Sibeal** Sybil

**Sile** Celia, Sheila

**Sileas** Julia

**Simeag** Jemima

**Sine** Jane, Jean, Sheena

**Siobla** Sybil

**Siùsaidh** Susan, Susie

**Sorcha** Claire, Sarah

**Teàrl, Teàrlag** Charlotte

**Ùna** Agnes, Una, Winifred, Winnie

DRAFT

## Section 5

### Male First Names - Gaelic to English

The names in this section are listed in alphabetical order of the Gaelic names. The purpose of this section is to act as a reverse listing and complement to Section 2, and most names are not explained here as they already have been above to where readers are referred for further explanation. However, names do appear here which have no equivalent in English and are thus absent from Section 2. These are explained here as well as their genitive and vocative forms being shown.

In the past there was a vast number of Gaelic male first names which had no English equivalents, but only those which are still used today or form parts of patronymics are included here.

**Abhsalan** Absolom

**Àdaidh, Àdhamh** Adam

**Admann** Edmund

**Ailean** Alan

**Ailig** Alec, Alex, Alick

**Ailpean** Alpin

**Aindreas** Andrew

**Alaidh** Ali, Ally

**Alasdair** Alexander, Alistair

**Ambras** Ambrose

**Amhla, Amhlaigh** Aulay

**Anndra, Anndrais** Andrew

**Antanaidh** Anthony

**Aodh** Hugh, Isaac

**Aodhagan**

(gen. & voc. *Aodhagain*)

This is a double diminutive of *Aodh* which means "fire", is formed by *Aodh* + *ag* + *an* and has no equivalent in English although it is found in the surname *MacAodhagain*, anglicised as MacKeegan and associated with North Uist as well as in the abbreviated form of Keegan.

**Aodhan** Aidan

**Aoidhean**

(gen. & voc. *Aoidhein*)

This is, like *Aodhan*, a diminutive of *Aodh* and has no equivalent in English although it occurs in the surname *MacAoidhein* which developed into *MacCuithein* and is anglicised as MacQueen and MacQuien.

**Aonghas** Aeneas, Angus

**Arailt** Harold

**Àrdghal**

(gen. & voc. *Àrdghail*)

"High valour". This name of Gaelic origin forms the surname *MacÀrdghail*, anglicised as Cardle, MacArdle and MacCardle.

**Armchul**

(gen. & voc. *Armchuil*)

This name is from Norse *Arnketill*, "eagle cauldron", and has no equivalent in English. It is associated with Skye and tended to be used by people called *MacNeacail* or Nicolson.

**Art, Artair, Artan** Arthur

**Asaild** Oswald

**Asgall**

(gen. & voc. *Asgaill*)

This name is of Norse origin and was originally *Asketill*, "cauldron of the gods". It has no equivalent in English and has developed into *Tasgall* which is still in use. *Asgall* forms part of the surname *MacAsgaill*, anglicised as MacAskill.

**Beathan**

(gen. *Bheathain*; voc. *a Bheathain*)

This name is found in surnames and place-names but has no English equivalent although sometimes rendered as "Bean". It occurs in *MacBheathain*, anglicised as MacBain and MacBean, and in *Tòrr Bheathain* which is Torvean on the outskirts of Inverness.

**Beisdean** Archie

**Bhàididh** Wattie

**Bhaltair, Bhàtar** Walter

**Blàthan** Blane

**Boban** Bobby

**Boisil** Basil

**Brianann** Brendan

**Brus** Bruce

**Cadhan** Kenny

**Cailean** Colin

**Caireall** Cyril

**Calman**

(gen. *Chalmain*; voc. *a Chalmain*)

This name means "dove" and is a diminutive form of *Calum*. Although it has no English equivalent it is found in *MacChalmain* which is anglicised as MacCalman and Murchison.

**Calum** Callum, Malcolm

**Caointean** Quentin

**Caomhan** Kevin

**Caoral** Cyril

**Carmag** Cormack

**Catan**

(gen. *Chatain*; voc. *a Chatain*)

This name may be a tribal designation and linked to *cat*, "cat", which occurs in personal and place-names in the north of the country. It has no English equivalent but is found in *Clann Chatain* or Clan Chattan, in the surname *Catanach* or Cattanach and in *Cill Chatain* and *Aird Chatain*, Kilchattan and Ardchattan in Argyll.

**Cathal** Cathel

**Ceallach**

(gen. *Cheallaich*; voc. *a Cheallaich*)

This name might refer to a warlike person but might equally contain an element referring to a church. In either case there is no direct English equivalent but it is found in *MacCeallaigh* or Kelly and its variant *MacCeallaig* or MacKellaig.

**Ceasag, Ceasan**

(gen. *Cheasaig, Cheasain*; voc. *a Cheasaig, a Cheasain*)

It is unclear what the source of these names is but they are both diminutives and are the basis of the names *MacCeasaig* or MacKessack and MacKissack and *MacCeasain* or Kesson. Although *Ceasag* with the *-ag* diminutive ending appears to be a female name, *-ag* was historically used as both a masculine and feminine ending. There are no English equivalents.

**Céineag** Kenny

**Ciaran** Kieran

**Cliamhan** Clement

**Coinneach** Kenneth, Kenny

**Còiseam** Constantine

**Colla** Coll

**Colman**

See **Calman** above.

**Còmhan, Comhghan**

(gen. *Chòmhain, Chomhghain*; voc. *a Chòmhain, a Chomhghain*)

These names which are the same may mean "twin" and occur in the surnames *Còmhan, MacCòmhain, MacComhghain, MacIllechòmhain* and *MacIllechomhghain* which are anglicised as Cowan or MacCowan. This name is also found in *Cill Chomhghain*, the original name of Kilchoan in Ardnamurchan.

**Conall** Connel

**Conn** Conn

**Connan**

(gen. *Chonnain*; voc. *a Chonnain*)

This is a diminutive of **Conn** above and is now found in the surname *MacConnain* or Connon.

**Cormag** Cormack

**Cosgrach**

(gen. *Chosgraich*; voc. *a Chosgraich*)

"Victorious". Although no longer in use as a first name, this is found in the patronymic *MacCosgraigh* which shows an old form of the genitive of the personal name and which is anglicised as MacCoskrie. It also occurs in the name of the district between Bonar Bridge and Dornoch in Sutherland which is *Fearann Cosgraigh*, "Cosgrach's land", but which has no name in English.

**Criomthann**

(gen. *Chriomthainn*; voc. *a Chriomthainn*)

This is a Gaelic name meaning "fox" which is no longer in use, but was the original name of *Calum Cille* or Columba. This formed the surname *MacCriomthainn* which has fallen together with *MacCruimein* due to similarity in sound. See **Cruimean** below.

**Crìsdeal, Crìsdean** Christopher

**Cruimean**

(gen. *Chruimein*; voc. *a Chruimein*)

This is from the Norse name *Hrōmund* meaning "famous protector" and is now found as part of the surname *MacCruimein*, anglicised as MacCrimmon and in Perthshire as Grimmond.

**Cuirealan** Cyril

**Cuithbeirt** Cuthbert

**Cusadan, Cusaintin** Constantine

**Dàibhidh, Dàidh** David

**Dànaidh** Danny

**Deasan**

(gen. *Dheasain*; voc. *a Dheasain*)

This name was used in north Sutherland as a male equivalent of *Deasag* or Jessie, has no equivalent in English and has not formed any patronymic surnames.

**Deòc** Jock

**Deòrdag, Deòrdan** Geordie

**Deòrsa** George

**Diarmaid** Dermot

**Domhanghart**

(gen. *Dhomhanghairt*; voc. *a Dhomhanghairt*)

"World leader" and similar in meaning to *Dòmhnall* which is "world ruler". This name is no longer in use but in the Benderloch area some families bore the surname *MacIlledhonaghart* meaning "son of the follower of Domhanghart" which was given as MacDonald in English.

**Dolaidh, Dòmhlán, Dòmhnallan, Donaidh** Donnie

**Dòmhnall** Donald

**Donn, Donnan**

(gen. *Dhuinn, Dhonnain*; voc. *a Dhuinn, a Dhonnain*)

"Brown". At one time it was common for a child to be given an adjective as a descriptive first name or an adjective with an added diminutive *-ag* or *-an* to form a simple first name. Some names such as *Caomhan*, "kind one" anglicised as Kevin, and *Mórag*, "great one" anglicised as Morag, are still in use but many others such as *Bànan*, "fair one", *Breacan*, "freckled one" and *Dubh*, "dark" have fallen out of use, although the adjectives themselves still occur in descriptive surnames of the *MacIlle-* type, such as *MacIllebhàin*, Bain and Whyte, and many others listed in Section 6.

**Donnchadh, Donnchan** Duncan

**Donnshléibhe**

(gen. *Dhonnshléibhe*; voc. *a Dhonnshléibhe*)

"Brown one of the mountain". This name has no anglicised equivalent as a first name but lives on in *MacDhùnshléibhe*, anglicised as Conlay, Livingstone and MacLeay.

**Drostan**

(gen. *Dhrostayn*; voc. *a Dhrostayn*)

This name was originally Pictish and although no longer used as a first name is found as *MacDhrostayn*, a rare Perthshire surname anglicised as MacRostie.

**Dubhshìth**

(gen. *Dhubhshìth*; voc. *a Dhubhshìth*)

"Black(-haired) one of peace". This has no English equivalent and is no longer in use as a first name, but forms part of *MacDhubhshìth* which was anglicised as Duffy but also developed into *Mac a' Phì*. See **MacPhee** above.

**Dubhthach** Duthac**Dùghall** Dougal, Dugald**Dùghlas** Douglas**Eachann, Eacharn** Hector**Eairdsidh** Archie**Ealar**

(gen. & voc. *Ealair*)

This is a gaelicisation of the Latin name *Hilarius* which gained popularity due to its being the name of an influential bishop of Poitiers, and gives the surname *MacEalair* or MacKellar.

**Eanraig** Henry**Earaild, Earailt** Harold**Earnag, Earnan**

(gen. & voc. *Earnaig, Earnain*)

These names appear to contain a word denoting wisdom or erudition and are principally associated with saints. Both names are diminutives and are found in various guises in several place-names such as *Cill Mhearnaig* or Kilmarnock and *Baile Dearnaig* or Baldernock in Stirlingshire. In the former *Earnag* is preceded by a reduced form of *Mo*, "my", and in the latter by *Do*, "your", which was a form of endearment in the names of saints. As *Earnan* the name is found in *Cill Earnain*, the old Gaelic name of Tannadice church in Angus.

**Eathan** John**Eideard** Edward**Eircean** Eric**Eiseam** Asaph**Eobhan** Evan, Ewan, Ewen, Hugh, Owen**Eóghanag, Eódhanan** Adamnan**Eógan** Hugh**Eóghann** Evan, Ewan, Ewen, Hugh, Owen



**Eòin** John, Jonathan, Owen

**Eòsag** Joe

**Eòsaph** Joseph

**Eughan** Evan, Ewan, Ewen, Hugh, Owen

**Eumann** Edmund

**Faolagan**

(gen. & voc. *Fhaolagain*)

This name is a double diminutive of *faol*, "wolf", and although no longer used as a first name is found in *MacIllfhaolagain*, MacGilligan and MacKilligan.

**Faolan** Fillan

**Feadair** Theodore

**Fearchar** Farquhar

**Feargan**

(gen. & voc. *Fheargain*)

This name is based on *fearg* which as a masculine noun means a passionate person or champion. Although this name is no longer current, it is found in the Islay surname *MacIllfheargain* which is anglicised as MacLergan.

**Fearghal** Fergal

**Fearghas** Fergus

**Fear-sithe**

(gen. & voc. *Fhir-shithe*)

This means "man of peace" and is said to be the basis of Forsyth.

**Filib** Philip

**Finnean** Finian

**Fionghan** Fingon

**Fionn** Fingal

**Fionnan**

(gen. & voc. *Fhionnain*)

This name is based on *fionn*, "fair-haired" and although no longer used as a first name it was the name of the saint commemorated in *Gleann Fhionnain* or Glenfinnan.

**Fionnbhar** Finbar

**Fionndag, Fionndan** Fintan

**Fionnlagh** Finlay

**Fitheachan**

(gen. & voc. *Fhitheachain*)

This name is based on *fitheach*, "raven", and forms the basis of the patronymic *MacFhitheachain* which is anglicised as MacKichan.

**Flaithbheartach**

(gen. *Fhlaithbheartaich*; voc. *a Fhlaithbheartaich*)

This name suggests princely wealth and is the defining element in *MacFhlaithbheartaich*, anglicised as MacLafferty, MacLarty and MacLaverty.

**Frang** Francis, Frank

**Frangan** Frank, Frankie

**Frannsaidh, Frannsas** Francis

**Gileabart** Gilbert

**Gioban** Gilbert

**Gillanndrais**

(gen. *Ghillanndrais*; voc. *a Ghillanndrais, Illanndrais*)

This name is based on *Anndrais* and means "follower of saint Anndrais/Andrew", referring to the patron saint of Scotland. It is the basis of *MacIllanndrais* which is anglicised as Anderson and Gillanders.

**Gillasaild**

(gen. *Ghillasaild*; voc. *A Ghillasaild, Illasaild*)

This name means "follower of saint Asaild/Oswald" and was found in mediaeval records.

**Gilleabart** Gilbert

**Gilleasbaig** Archibald

**Gilleathain**

(gen. *Ghilleathain*; voc. *a Ghilleathain, Illeathain*)

*Eathan* forms the basis of this name which is "follower of saint Eathan/John", referring to the saint of that name. Although no longer used as a first name, this is the basis of *MacIlleathain*, Maclean.

**Gillebrighde** Gilbert

**Gillechaluim**

(gen. *Ghillechaluim*; voc. *a Ghillechaluim, Illechaluim*)

"Follower of saint Calum", referring to Columba of Iona. Although no longer used as a first name, this is the basis of *MacIllechaluim*, MacCallum.

### **Gillechatain**

(gen. *Ghillechatain*; voc. *a Ghillechatain, Illechatain*)

"Follower of saint Catan". Although no longer used as a first name, this is the basis of *MacIllechatain* which is usually anglicised as MacIlhatton but also as Hatton and Hutton in Kintyre.

### **Gillechathbhaidh**

(gen. *Ghillechathbhaidh*; voc. *a Ghillechathbhaidh, Illechathbhaidh*)

"Follower of saint Cathbhadh". Although no longer used as a first name, this is the basis of *MacIllechathbhaidh* which is anglicised as MacCaffie and MacHaffie.

### **Gillechiarain**

(gen. *Ghillechiarain*; voc. *a Ghillechiarain, Illechiarain*)

"Follower of saint Ciaran/Kieran". Although no longer used as a first name, this is the basis of *MacIllechiarain* which has become MacIlherron, MacKerron and Sharpe in English.

### **Gillechomhghain**

(gen. *Ghillechomhghain*; voc. *a Ghillechomhghain, Illechomhghain*)

"Follower of saint **Comhghan**". Although no longer used as a first name, this is the basis of *MacIllechomhghain* (sometimes spelled *MacIllechòmhain*) which is anglicised as Cowan and MacCowan.

### **Gillechonail**

(gen. *Ghillechonail*; voc. *a Ghillechonail, Illechonail*)

"Follower of saint Conall/Connel". This name was popular among elite families in Galloway and Carrick and although no longer used as a first name, is the basis of *MacIllechonail* which is anglicised as MacWhannel and Whannel.

### **Gillechrìosd Christopher**

### **Gilledhòmhnaich**

(gen. *Ghilledhòmhnaich*; voc. *a Ghilledhòmhnaich, Illedhòmhnaich*)

"Follower of the Lord". Although no longer used as a first name, this is the basis of *MacIlledhòmhnaich* which is anglicised as Downie and MacIldownie.

### **Gilledhonaghart**

(gen. *Ghilledhonaghart*; voc. *a Ghilledhonaghart, Illedhonaghart*)

"Follower of **Domhanghart**". Although no longer used as a first name, this is the basis of *MacIlledhonaghart* which was anglicised in Benderloch in Argyll as MacDonald.

### **Gilledhubhthaich**

(gen. *Ghilledhubhthaich*; voc. *a Ghilledhubhthaich, Illedhubhthaich*)

"Follower of saint Dubhthach/Duthac". Although no longer used as a first name, this is the basis of *MacIlledhubhthaich* which is anglicised as Duthie.

### **Gillemhàrtainn**

(gen. *Ghillemhàrtainn*; voc. *a Ghillemhàrtainn, Illelhàrtainn*)

"Follower of saint Màrtainn/Martin", referring probably to St Martin of Tours. This name appears in an anglicised form as Gil-Martin in James Hogg's novel *Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner* but is no longer current as a first name, although it forms the surname

*MacIllemhàrtainn*, anglicised as Gilmartin, MacMartin and Martin.

### **Gillemhearnaig**

(gen. *Ghillemhearnaig*; voc. *a Ghillemhearnaig, Illemhearnaig*)

"Follower of saint **Earnag/Earnan**". Although no longer used as a first name, this is the basis of *MacIllemhearnaig* which is usually anglicised as Warnock but becomes Graham in parts of Perthshire.

### **Gillemhìcheil**

(gen. *Ghillemhìcheil*; voc. *a Ghillemhìcheil, Illemhìcheil*)

"Follower of saint Micheal/Michael". Although no longer used as a first name, this is the basis of *MacIllemhìcheil*, usually anglicised as Carmichael.

### **Gillemhoire**

(gen. *Ghillemhoire*; voc. *a Ghillemhoire, Illemhoire*)

"Follower of the Virgin Mary". Although no longer used as a first name, this is the basis of *MacIllemhoire* which is usually anglicised as Morrison but also occurs as Gilmore/Gilmour.

### **Gillephàdraig**

(gen. *Ghillephàdraig*; voc. *a Ghillephàdraig, Illephàdraig*)

"Follower of saint Patrick". Although no longer used as a first name, this is the basis of *MacIllephàdraig* which is anglicised as Milfrederick, a very uncommon name.

### **Gillepheadair**

(gen. *Ghillepheadair*; voc. *a Ghillepheadair, Illepheadair*)

"Follower of saint Peter". Although no longer used as a first name, this is the basis of *MacIllepheadair* which is anglicised as MacFater, MacPhater and Peters.

### **Gillesheathain**

(gen. *Ghillesheathain*; voc. *a Ghillesheathain, Illesheathain*)

"Follower of saint Seathan/John". This first name is basically the same as **Gilleathain** above but in forming the surname *MacIllesheathain* it was anglicised in Argyll as MacCheyne rather than MacLean.

### **Gillethòmhais**

(gen. *Ghillethòmhais*; voc. *a Ghillethòmhais, Illethòmhais*)

"Follower of saint Tòmhas/Thomas". Although no longer used as a first name, this is the basis of *MacIllethòmhais* which is anglicised as MacLehose and even Mucklehose.

### **Gillfhaolagain**

(gen. *Ghillfhaolagain*; voc. *a Ghillfhaolagain, Illefhaolagain*)

"Follower of saint **Faolagan**". Although no longer used as a first name, this is the basis of *MacIllfhaolagain*, MacGilligan and MacKilligan.

### **Gillfhaolain**

(gen. *Ghillfhaolain*; voc. *a Ghillfhaolain, Illfhaolain*)

"Follower of saint Faolan/Fillan". Although no longer used as a first name, this is the basis of *MacIllfhaolain* which becomes Cleland, MacClelland and MacLellan in English.

### **Gillfheargain**

(gen. *Ghillfheargain*; voc. *a Ghillfheargain, Illfheargain*)

"Follower of Feargan". Although no longer used as a first name, this is the basis of *MacIllfheargain*, an Islay name anglicised as MacLergan.

### **Gillfhinnein**

(gen. *Ghillfhinnein*; voc. *a Ghillfhinnein, Illfhinnein*)

"Follower of saint Finnean/Finian". Although no longer used as a first name, this is the basis of *MacIllfhinnein* which is anglicised as MacLennan.

### **Gillfhionndaig**

(gen. *Ghillfhionndaig*; voc. *a Ghillfhionndaig, Illfhionndaig*)

"Follower of saint Fionndag/Fintan". This name means the same as *Gillfhionndain* below and occurs now only in the surname *MacIllfhionndaig* which is anglicised as Lindsay, MacClintock and MacLintock.

### **Gillfhionndain**

(gen. *Ghillfhionndain*; voc. *a Ghillfhionndain, Illfhionndain*)

"Follower of saint Fionndan/Fintan" and basically the same name as *Gillfhionndaig* above. However the surname based on it, *MacIllfhionndain*, is anglicised as Clinton, Linton and MacLinton.

### **Gilliomchadha**

(gen. *Ghilliomchadha*; voc. *a Ghilliomchadha, Illiomchadha*)

This rare name is "follower of saint **Iomchadh**". Although no longer used as a first name, this is the basis of *MacIlliomchadha* which is anglicised as MacClumpha and MacLumpha.

**Gilliosa** Giles, Gillies

### **Gillonchon**

(gen. *Ghillonchon*; voc. *a Ghillonchon, Illonchon*)

"Follower of saint **Onchu**". Although no longer used as a first name, this is the basis of *MacIllonchon* which is anglicised as Clanachan, Clenachan and MacClanachan.

### **Gillonfhaidh**

(gen. *Ghillonfhaidh*; voc. *a Ghillonfhaidh, Illonfhaidh*)

"Son of the storm". Although no longer used as a first name, this is the basis of *MacIllonfhaidh* which is anglicised as Lonie, MacAlonie and MacGillonie.

**Goiridh, Goraidh** Geoffrey, Godfrey

**Gòrdan** Gordon

**Griogal, Griogar** Gregor, Gregory

### **Guaire**

(gen. *Ghuaire*; voc. *a Ghuaire*)

"Noble". Although no longer used as a first name, this is the basis of *MacGuaire* which is anglicised as MacQuarrie.

**Harailt, Haral** Harold

**Hùisdean** Hugh

**Iagan** Johnny

**Iain** John

**Ìomhar** Ivor

**Ionatan** Jonathan

**Iorcall** Heracles, Hercules

**Ìosag** Isaac

**Labhrann** Lawrence

**Lachaidh** Lachie

**Lachann, Lachlann** Lachlan

**Laghamann**

(gen. *Laghmainn*; voc. *a Laghmainn*)

This is a Norse name based on "law man" and forms the patronymic *MacLaomainn* which shows an old spelling of *Laghamann* and which is anglicised as Lamont, MacClement, MacClymont and MacLeman.

**Leòd**

(gen. *Leòid*; voc. *a Leòid*)

This Norse name, from *Ljótr*, is nowadays found in the surname *MacLeòid* or MacLeod.

**Liuthais** Lewis, Ludovic

**Lùcas** Lucas, Luke

**Lughaidh**

(gen. *Lughaidh*; voc. *a Lughaidh*)

Although no longer used as a first name, this ancient name occurs in *MacLughaidh*, anglicised as MacClew and MacCloy.

**Lulach** Lulach

(gen. *Lulaich*; voc. *a Lulaich*)

This Gaelic name is unclear but may contain an element meaning "calf", from *laogh*. Lulach was the name of a King of Scots and stepson of Macbeth. The patronymic *MacLulaich* is anglicised as MacLullich but often in Argyll also as **MacCulloch** although unrelated to that surname in Galloway.

**Luthais** Lewis, Ludovic

**MacBeatha**

(gen. *MhicBheatha*; voc. *a MhicBheatha*)

"Man of religion" or "man of life". Although this looks like a patronymic, it is a personal name although there is a surname very similar to it in sound and appearance. See **MacBeath** above.

### **MacRath**

(gen. *MhicRath*; voc. *a MhicRath*)

"Man of good fortune". Like *MacBeatha* this has the appearance of a patronymic but is a personal name.

### **Mànas Magnus**

### **Mannan**

(gen. *Mhannain*; voc. *a Mhannain*)

This name may be related to that of the mythological figure *Manannán Mac Lir* who is associated with the Isle of Man, but is no longer in use as a first name. However it formed part of the surname *MacMhannain* which was anglicised as MacVannan in Skye. See **Buchanan**.

### **Maoilean, Maolan**

(gen. *Mhaoilein, Mhaolain*; voc. *a Mhaoilein, a Mhaolain*)

This name suggests a monk or other holy person whose hair was worn in a tonsure and is a noun formed from the adjective *maol* meaning "bald, blunt, tonsured". Although no longer in use as a first name, this is found in *MacMhaoilein* and *MacMhaolain* which are anglicised as MacMillan, Millan and Milne.

### **Maoileas, Maoilios Myles**

### **Maolagan**

(gen. *Mhaolagain*; voc. *a Mhaolagain*)

This name, like **Maoilean** or Maolan above, is based on *maol* indicating a tonsured hair style, and is a diminutive noun formed from that adjective. No longer in use as a personal name, *Maolagan* occurs in the surname *MacMhaolagain* which is anglicised as MacMillan and Milligan in Galloway and as Millken further north.

### **Maolbheatha**

(gen. *Mhaolbheatha*; voc. *a Mhaolbheatha*)

*Beatha* in this name plays the same role as in **Macbeth** above in that it most likely refers to religious belief. *Maolbheatha* suggests the name of a monk and although no longer in use as a first name appears in the patronymic *MacMhaolbheatha* which was anglicised in the Alvie area of Strathspey as MacBean.

### **Maolchaluim Malcolm**

### **Maoldòmhnach Ludovic**

### **Maoliosa, Maolmhoire Myles**

### **Marais, Maras**

(gen. *Mharais, Mharais*; voc. *a Mharais, a Mharais*)

This uncommon name is a gaelicisation of Maurice and is no longer used as a first name, although it forms the patronymic *MacMharais* which, along with *MacBharrais*, is anglicised as MacVarish.

**Marcas** Mark

**Màrtainn** Martin

**Mata, Matha** Matthew

**Mathan**

(gen. *Mhathain*; voc. *a Mhathain*)

This is the Gaelic noun meaning "bear" and as such, similar in meaning to Norse *Björn*. Although not now used as a first name, this forms the patronymic *MacMhathain* which is usually anglicised as Matheson but as MacMahon around Loch Shin in Sutherland and as MacMann in Glenlivet.

**Miadhchan**

(gen. *Mhiadhchain*; voc. *a Mhiadhchain*)

"Honourable, noble". This name is now only found as part of the surname *MacMhiadhchain* which was anglicised in Galloway as MacMeeken and elsewhere as MacMeechan and Meechan.

**Micheal, Micheil** Michael

**Morgan**

(gen. *Mhorgain*; voc. *a Mhorgain*)

This personal name found also in Pictish and other Brythonic forms is "sea bright" or "sea white". Although seldom used as a first name, it exists in surname form as *MacMhorgain*, *Morgan* and *Morganach*, all anglicised as Morgan. See **MacKay**.

**Muircheartach**

(gen. *Mhuircheartaich*; voc. *a Mhuircheartaich*)

"Sea ruler". Although no longer used as a first name, this is found in the patronymic *MacMhuircheartaich* which has been simplified and anglicised in several variations. See **MacKirdie**.

**Muireach** Murdoch

**Mungan** Mungo

**Munna**

(gen. *Mhunna*; voc. *a Mhunna*)

This is a by-form of **Fionndan** above which developed into a first name in its own right, and although no longer used as such, is found as a surname in *MacIllelhunna*, *MacMhunna* and *Munna* which are anglicised as MacMunn and Munn. The name is also found in the dedication *Cill Mhunna* or Kilmun in Cowal.

**Murchadh** Murdo

**Naomhan**

(gen. *Naomhain*; voc. *a Naomhain*)

This name is *naomhan*, "holly one", and is found in the surnames *MacNaomhain* and its variants which are anglicised as MacNiven and Niven.



### **Nachlan, Nathalan**

(gen. *Nachlain, Nathalain*; voc. *a Nachlain, a Nathalain*)

*Nathalan* is believed to be a Pictish or generally Brythonic name, sometimes rendered as *Nachlan*. Although no longer in use, nor featuring in any current patronymics, the name appears in the old parish name of Meldrum in Aberdeenshire which was *Both Nachlain* or Bethelnie.

**Neacal** Nicholas, Nicol

**Neachdan** Nechtan

### **Nia, Niadh**

(gen. *Nia*; voc. *a Nia*)

"Hero, warrior". Although no longer used as a first name, this is the basis of *MacNia*, **MacNee** and other variants found in Perthshire.

**Niall** Neil

### **Niallghas**

(gen. *Niallghais*; voc. *a Niallghais*)

"Heroic choice". Although no longer used as a first name, this is the basis of *MacNiallghais* which is anglicised as MacNeilage.

### **Odhran**

(gen. & voc. *Odhrain*)

"Dun-coloured one". This name belongs to a group of names based on a simple adjective with the masculine noun ending *-an* added, such as *Donnan*, *Fionnan* and *Naomhan* based on *donn*, "brown", *fionn*, "fair", and *naomh* "holy", respectively. Some have formed patronymics, such as *MacNaomhain*, "MacNiven", but others occur now only in place-names such as *Cill Odhrain* which is Kiloran in Colonsay.

**Oilbheis** Oliver

### **Onchu**

(gen. & voc. *Onchon*)

"Mighty hound". This name has not been used as a first name for several centuries but is found in the patronymic *MacIllonchon* which is anglicised in a number of ways including **Clanachan**.

### **Osbran**

(gen. & voc. *Osbrain*)

This name is based on *os*, "noble" and *bran*, "raven", and as a saint's name has been confused with the Anglian Osbern. This name is no longer in use and is found occasionally in place-names such as *Cill Osbrain* or Closeburn in Dumfries-shire.

**Osgar** Oscar

**Pàdair** Peter

**Pàdraig** Patrick, Peter

**Paid, Paidean, Pàidean** Paddy, Pat

**Pàl** Paul

**Para** Paddy, Pat

**Pàraig** Patrick, Peter

**Pàrlan** Bartholomew

**Peadar** Peter

**Peadaran, Peidearan**

(gen. *Pheadarain, Pheidearain*; voc. *a Pheadarain, a Pheidearain*)

These are diminutives of *Peadar* and equivalent in meaning to Pete. They are found in the surnames *MacPheadarain* and *MacPheidearain* which are both anglicised as MacPhedran with the latter also anglicised in Glencoe as Fletcher.

**Peadras** Petrus

**Pòl** Paul

**Raghalt, Ragnall** Ranald, Reginald, Ronald

**Raibeart, Reabart** Robert

**Raoiridh**

(gen. *Raoiridh*; voc. *a Raoiridh*)

This appears to be a by-form of *Ruairidh*. See **Roderick**.

**Riada**

(gen. *Riada*; voc. *a Riada*)

"Taught, trained". This name is no longer in use but occurs in *Dal Riada*, the initial territory of the Scots in what is now Argyll or *Earra-Ghàidheal*, "coastland of the Gaels/Scots", and is found in the surname *MacRiada*, anglicised as MacCreadie.

**Rinnean** Ninian

**Riocard, Riseard** Richard

**Rob** Robert

**Roithridh**

(gen. *Roithridh*; voc. *a Roithridh*)

This appears to be a by-form of *Ruairidh*. See **Roderick**.

**Rònan** Ronan

**Ruairidh, Ruaraidh** Derek, Roderick, Roddy, Rory

**Ruiseart** Richard

**Sachairi** Zachary

**Sandag, Sandaidh, Sanndaidh, Sanndan** Sandy

**Sealbhach**

(gen. *Shealbhaich*; voc. *a Shealbhaich*)

"Fortunate, prosperous". Although this name is no longer used as a first name it forms the basis of *MacShealbhaigh* which shows an old genitive form of the first name and is anglicised as MacKelvie. The name is also found in Belhelvie in Aberdeenshire which is *Baile Shealbhaigh* or "Sealbhach's farm".

**Seàrlas** Charles

**Seathan** John

**Seoc** Jack, Jock

**Seocaidh, Seocan** Jockie

**Seon** John

**Seonachan** Johnny, Jonathan

**Seonaidh** Johnny

**Seòras, Seòrsa** George

**Seórdaidh, Seórsaidh** Geordie

**Seosamh** Joseph

**Seumachan, Seumag, Seumaidh, Seuman** Jimmy

**Seumas** James

**Sgàire** Zachary

**Siamas** James

**Sìm, Simidh** Simon

**Sitheach**

(gen. *Shithich*; voc. *a Shithich*)

This name refers to a wolf and although no longer in use as a first name forms the basis of the patronymic *MacShithich* which is variously anglicised as Keith, Shaw and Shiach.

**Solamh, Solla** Solomon

**Somhairle** Samuel, Somerled, Sorley

### **Suibhne**

(gen. *Shuibhne*; voc. *a Shuibhne*)

This Gaelic name means "good going" and is often confused with the Norse name *Svein*. Although not now used as a first name, it forms the patronymic *MacShuibhne* which is one of the names anglicised as **MacQueen** and **MacSween**.

### **Tadhg**

(gen. *Thaidhg*; voc. *a Thaidhg*)

"Poet, philosopher". This name appears concealed and simplified in *MacCaoig* which is anglicised as Caig and MacCaig. In Ireland *Tadhg* can be anglicised as Tim and Thaddeus.

**Tàmas, Tàmhas** Thomas

### **Tasgall**

(gen. *Thasgaill*; voc. *a Thasgaill*)

This name is a back-formation of the Norse *Asketill*, "god's cauldron", which forms the surname *MacAsgaill*, anglicised as MacAskill. This name is currently in use as a first name although with no English equivalent.

**Teàrlach** Charles

**Teàrlag** Charlie

**Tiobaid** Theobald

**Tòmachan, Tòmag** Tommy

**Tómas, Tòmhas** Thomas

**Torcall, Torcuil** Torquil

**Tormailt, Tormod, Tormoid** Norman

**Truinnean** Ninian

**Ualan** Valentine

**Uilleachan** Willie

**Uilleam** William

**Ùisdean** Hugh

## Section 6

### Surnames - Gaelic to English

The names in this section are listed in alphabetical order of the Gaelic names. The purpose of this section is to act as a reverse listing and complement to Section 3, and most names are not explained here as they already have been above.

**Aileanach** Allan, Allanach

**Ambarsan, Annasdan, Anndrasdan** Anderson

**Arasgain** Erskine

**Bacastair** Baxter

**Bàideanach** Badenoch

**Bànach** Bain

**Baran** Barron

**Barrach** Dunbar

**Beitean** Beaton, Bethune

**Bhàsa, Bhodhsa** Vass

**Blacach** Black, Blackie

**Blàr, Blàrach** Blair

**Bochanan** Buchanan

**Bòid, Bòideach** Boyd

**Bràigheach** MacGillivray

**Brùn** Brown

**Brus** Bruce

**Buideach, Buids** Budge

**Buidheach** Bowie

**Buiseid** Bezack, Bisset

**Càidh** Caie, Keith

**Caileanach** Callanach

**Caimbeul** Campbell

**Caldal, Caldanach, Calldal** Calder

**Camal** Campbell

**Camshron** Cameron

**Cananach** Buchanan

**Canghaiseach** MacAngus

**Caolaisdean** Kelso

**Carra, Carrach** Carr, Kerr

**Carsalach, Carsual** Carswell

**Catach** Catto

**Catan, Catanach** Cattanach

**Ceacharna** MacEachern

**Cèamp, Cèampach** Kemp

**Ceanadach** Kennedy

**Cearrach** Carr, Kerr

**Céiteach** Keith

**Ciogach** Eggo

**Clàrc, Cléireach** Clark, Clarke

**Coineagan** Cunningham

**Combach** Stewart

**Còmhan** Cowan, MacCowan

**Corbaid** Corbett

**Crannach** Cranna

**Crathartach, Creamhain** Crawford

**Criatharach** Crerar

**Cudsach** Coutts

**Cuimein, Cuimeineach** Cumming

**Cuitseach** Coutts

**Cuirigh** Currie

**Déibheasdan** Davidson

**Deòir, Deòireach** Dewar

**Dòmhnallach** MacDonald

**Druimein, Druimeineach** Drummond

**Dubh** Dove, Dow, Duff

**Dùghlas** Douglas

**Eachannach, Eachnach** Achnach

**Fearghasdan** Ferguson

**Fionnlasdan** Finlayson

**Flimean** Fleeman, Fleming

**Foirbeis, Foirbeiseach** Forbes

**Forsàidh** Forsyth

**Friseal** Fraser, Frizzell

**Fuirbeis, Fuirbeiseach** Forbes

**Gall** Gall, Gauld

**Gallach** Gallie, Gillies, Gollach

**Geadasach** Geddes

**Geàrr** Gair

**Gilios** Gillies

**Gilleasbaig** Gillespie

**Gilledog** Doig

**Giorr** Gair

**Gobha** Gove, Gow

**Gòrdan, Gòrdanach** Gordon

**Grannd** Grant

**Greum, Greumach** Graham

**Griogal, Griogalach** MacGregor

**Gruarach** Gruer

**Guinne, Gunnach** Gunn

**Haitsean** Hutcheon

**Ìomharach** Iverach, Ivory

**Làman** Lamont

**Latharnach** Larnach

**Leamhnach** Lennox

**Léigheach** Leitch

**Lìos** Lees

**Lobhdain, Loudain** Lothian

**Loganach** Logan

**Mac a' Bhacastair** Baxter, MacBaxter

**Mac a' Bhàillidh** Baillie

**Mac a' Bhàird** Baird, Ward

**Mac a' Bhiaataich, Mac a' Bhiaataigh** MacVitie

**Mac a' Bhiocair** MacVicar

**Mac a' Bhreatannaich** Braithnoch, Bratney, Bratnie, Bretnoch, Calbraith, Galbraith, MacBratney

**Mac a' Bhriuthainn** Brown, MacBrayne



**Mac a' Chananaich** Buchanan

**Mac a' Charraige** Craig

**Mac a' Chléirich** Clark, Clarke, Clerie, MacClery, MacLerie

**Mac a' Chombaich** Colquhon, MacCombie

**Mac a' Chonnaich** Colquhon

**Mac a' Chriathrair** Crerar

**Mac a' Chrosain** MacCrossan

**Mac a' Chruiteir** Harper, MacWhirter

**Mac a' Ghnìomhaid** Agnew

**Mac a' Ghobhainn** Gove, Gow, MacGavin, MacGowan, Smith

**Mac a' Ghoill** Gall, Gauld, MacGill

**Mac a' Ghréidheir** Grieve

**Mac a' Ghreusaiche** Grassick, Grassie

**Mac a' Ghrùdair** Brewster, Gruer, MacGruer, MacGruther

**Mac a' Leòra** MacClure, MacLure

**Mac a' Lìos** Lees, MacLeish

**Mac a' Mhaighstir** MacMaster

**Mac a' Mhaoir** Weir

**Mac a' Mhiadhaich** May, Omay, Omey

**Mac a' Phearsain** MacPherson, Parsons

**Mac a' Phì** MacPhee

**Mac a' Phiocair** MacVicar

**Mac an Aba** Abbot, Abbotson, MacNab

**Mac an Airgid** Sillars, Silver

**Mac an Deadhain** Denson

**Mac an Deòir** Dewar, MacIndeor

**Mac an Deòraidh** Jorrie, MacJarrow

**Mac an Dorsair** Dorward, Durward

**Mac an Duibh** MacIndoe

**Mac an Fhigheadair** MacNider, Weaver

**Mac an Fhilidh** MacNeillie, Neil

**Mac an Fhléisteir** Fletcher, Leslie, Lister

**Mac an Fhoirbhich** Elder, MacNoravich, Munro

**Mac an Fhùcadair** MacKnockater, Walker

**Mac an Fhuibhir** MacNair

**Mac an Iasgair** Fisher, MacInesker

**Mac an Làmhach** Lennie

**Mac an Léigh** Beaton, Livingstone, MacLeay

**Mac an Leighe** MacLeay

**Mac an Oighre** MacNair

**Mac an Ollaimh** MacInally

**Mac an Rothaich** Munro

**Mac an Ruaidh** MacInroy

**Mac an Sporain** MacSporran, Purser

**Mac an Tàilleir** Taylor

**Mac an Tòisich** MacIntosh, MacKintosh, Tosh

**Mac an t-Sagairt** MacTaggart, Taggart

**Mac an t-Saoir** Abercrombie, MacIntyre, MacTear, Tyre, Wright

**Mac an t-Sealgair** Hunter

**Mac an t-Srònaich** Stronach

**Mac an Tuairneir** Turner

**Mac an Uidhir** MacNair

**Mac Iain Bhallaich** Malloch

**Mac Iain Duibh** MacIndoe

**Mac Iain Ruaidh** MacInroy

**Mac Iain Uidhir** MacNair

**Mac Ille na Brataich** Bannerman

**Mac na Ceàrda** Caird, Sinclair

**Mac na Ceàrdaich** Sinclair

**Mac na Maoile** MacMillan

**Mac O Dhrain, Mac O Dreain** Drain, Train

**Mac O Seannaig** Shannon

**MacAbhra** MacAra

**MacAbhsalain** Buchanan, MacAuslan

**MacÀdaidh** MacAdie, Munro

**MacÀdhaimh** Adam, Adamson, Caw, Eason, Esson, MacAdam, MacCaw, MacKay, MacKeggie

**MacÀidh** MacKay

**MacÀididh** MacAdie

**MacAilein** Allan, Allanson, Callan, MacAllan

**MacAilpein** Alpine, MacAlpine

**MacAlasdair** Alexander, Callister, MacAlexander, MacAllister

**MacAmbrais** Cambridge, Chalmers, Chambers, MacCambridge

**MacAmhalghaidh, MacAmhlaigh** MacAllay, MacAlley, MacAulay

**MacAnndaidh** Andie, MacAndie

**MacAnndra** Andrew, MacAndrew

**MacAnndrais** Anderson

**MacAodhagain** Keegan, MacKeegan

**MacAoidh** Kay, MacGhie, MacHeth, MacKay

**MacAoidhein** MacQuien

**MacAomalain** Bannatyne

**MacAonghais** Angus, Angusson, Canch, Caunce, Innes, Kindness, MacAinsh, MacCance, MacInnes

**MacAra** MacAra

**MacÀrdghail** Cardle, MacArdle, MacCardle

**MacArtain** MacArthur, MacCartney

**MacArtair** Arthur, Carter, MacArthur

**MacAsgaidh** Caskie, MacCaskie

**MacAsgaill** MacAskill

**MacAsgain** MacAskin

**MacBeatha** Beaton, Bethune, MacBeath, MacBeth, MacBey

**MacBeathag** MacBeth

**MacBhàididh** MacWattie

**MacBharrais** MacVarish

**MacBhàtair** Watson

**MacBheatha** MacBeigh, MacVey

**MacBheathaig** MacBeth

**MacBheathain** MacBain, MacBean, MacVean

**MacBhigein** MacFigan

**MacBhlàthain** Blain, Blane

**MacBhradain** Braden

**MacBhraonaigh** Birnie, Burnie, MacBirnie, MacBurnie

**MacBhrighdeinn** Brydan, MacBridan

**MacCàba, MacCaibe** MacCabe

**MacCàidh** MacKeith

**MacCailein** Colinson, Cullen

**MacCairge** MacHarg

**MacCaisgein** MacAskin

**MacCalmain** Dove, MacCalman, Murchison

**MacCaluim** MacCallum

**MacCaoig** Caig, MacCaig

**MacCardaidh** Hardie, MacHardie

**MacCarraig** Cormack, MacCormick

**MacCathachaidh** MacCarthy

**MacCathail** Auld, Cail, MacAll, MacCail, MacCall

**MacCathasaigh** Cassie

**MacCathbharra** MacAffer

**MacCeallaig** MacKellaig

**MacCeallaigh** Kelly

**MacCeallair** MacKellar

**MacCearnaigh** Cairnie

**MacCearraich** MacKerrow

**MacCesaig** MacKessack, MacKessock

**MacCeasain** Kesson

**MacCéidigh** MacKeady

**MacChoinnich** MacKenzie

**MacCianain** Keenan

**MacCiarain** MacKerron

**MacCiomalain** Bannatyne

**MacCionadha** MacKenna, MacKinnie

**MacCnusachainn** Kennedy

**MacCodrum** MacCodrum

**MacCoinnich** Kynoch, MacKenzie

**MacCoinnigh** MacWhinnie

**MacCòiseim** MacCoshin, MacDonald

**MacColla** MacColl

**MacCòmhain, MacComhghain** Cowan, MacCowan

**MacConaill** MacConnell, MacWhannell

**MacConghail** MacConnell

**MacConnain** Connon

**MacCorcadail** MacCorkindale, MacCorquodale

**MacCosgraigh** MacCoskrie

**MacCrafain** Crawford

**MacCrain** MacCrain

**MacCreamhain, MacCreamhainn** Crawford

**MacCridhe** MacNee

**MacCriomthainn** Grimmond, MacCrimmon

**MacCrisdeil** Chrystal, MacChrystal

**MacCrisdein** Christie, Chrystal, MacChrystal

**MacCrithein** MacNiven

**MacCròin** MacCrone

**MacCrosain** Crossan, MacCrossan

**MacCruimein** Grimmond, MacCrimmon

**MacCruitein** MacCrutten

**MacCuaig** Cook, MacCook, MacCuaig

**MacCuain** MacQueen

**MacCuaraig** Kennedy

**MacCùga** Cook, MacCook

**MacCuidhein** MacDonald

**MacCuilcein** MacQuilken, Wilkin, Wilkinson

**MacCuinn** Conn, MacQueen

**MacCuinnleis** Candlish, Chandlish, MacCandlish

**MacCuirc** MacGurk

**MacCuithein** MacDonald, MacQueen, MacQuien

**MacCullaich** MacCulloch

**MacCumasgaigh** Comiskey, MacComiskey

**MacCumhais, MacCuthais** MacCuish

**MacDhàibhidh** Davidson, Day, Deason, Desson, Dey

**MacDhiarmaid** MacDermid, MacDiarmid

**MacDhòmhnaill** Donald, Donaldson, MacConnell, MacDonald, MacDonnell

**MacDhonnchaidh** Donnachie, Duncan, Duncanson, MacConnachie, Robertson

**MacDhrostaín** MacRostie

**MacDhubhaig** MacCuaig

**MacDhubhshìth** Duffy, Fee, MacDuffie, MacFie

**MacDhubhthaich** Duthie, MacDuff

**MacDhùghaill** Coles, Coull, Dowall, MacDougall, MacDowell

**MacDhuibh** MacDuff

**MacDhùnshléibhe** Conlay, Livingstone, MacLeay

**MacEachainn** MacEachen, MacGeachen

**MacEachairn** MacEachern, MacKechnie

**MacEacharna** Cochrane, MacEachern, MacKechnie

**MacEalair** MacKellar

**MacEamilinn** Bannatyne

**MacEanain** MacKinnon

**MacEanraig** Harrison, Henderson, Kendrick, MacKendrick

**MacEóghainn** Eunson, Evinson, Ewenson, Ewing, MacEwan, MacGowan

**MacFhearchair** Farquhar, Farquharson, Ferguson, Kerracher, MacErchar, MacFarquhar, MacKerracher

**MacFhearghail** MacKerral

**MacFhearghais** Fergus, Ferguson, Ferries, Ferris, MacFerries, MacKerras

**MacFhilib** MacGilp, MacKillop

**MacFhionghain** MacKinnon

**MacFhionnlaigh** Findlay, Finlayson, MacIntosh, MacKinlay

**MacFhitheachain** MacKichan

**MacFhlaithbheartaich** MacLafferty, MacLarty, MacLaverty

**MacFhraing** Rankin

**MacFhraingein** MacCracken

**MacFigeinn** Littleton, MacFigan

**MacFrideinn** Bryden, MacBridan

**MacFuirigh** Currie, MacVurich

**MacGairbh** MacGarrow

**MacGairbheith** Garvie, MacGarva, MacGarvie



**MacGaraidh** Hay

**MacGarraidh** Garrow

**MacGille** MacGillivray

**MacGill-Eain** MacLean

**MacGiobain** Cubbin, MacCubbin, MacGibbon

**MacGlaisein** Glashan, Gray, MacGlashan

**MacGoraidh** Gorrie, MacGorrie

**MacGriogair** Gregory, Grigor, MacGregor

**MacGuaire** MacQuarrie

**MacGumaraid** Montgomery

**MacHaitsein** MacCutcheon

**MacIain** Johnson, Johnstone, Kean, MacKean

**MacIllandrais** Anderson, Gillanders, MacAndrew

**MacIllaodhagain** MacLagan

**MacIildheòra** MacClure, MacLure

**MacIllearnain** MacLernan

**MacIlleasbaig** Archibald, Espie, Gillespie

**MacIlleathain** Clean, Gellion, Gilzean, MacLaine, MacLean

**MacIllebhàin** Bain, Bayne, MacBain, Milvain, Whyte

**MacIllebheathain** MacIlvain, MacIlwaine

**MacIllebhlàthain** Blain, Blane, MacBlane

**MacIllebhràth** MacGillivray

**MacIllebrìghde** MacBryde

**MacIllebhriis** MacElfrish

**MacIllebhuidhe** Bowie, Buie, Ogilvie

**MacIllechairge** MacHarg

**MacIllechaluim** MacCallum

**MacIllechatain** Hatton, Hutton, MacIlhatton

**MacIllechathbhaidh** MacCaffie, MacHaffie

**MacIllechiar** Keir

**MacIllechiarain** MacIlherran, MacKerron, Sharpe

**MacIllechòmhain, MacIllechomhghain** Cowan, MacCowan

**MacIllechonail** Connell, MacWhannell, Whannell

**MacIllechrìosd** Gilchrist

**MacIllechruim** Crum

**MacIlledhòmhnaich** Downie, MacIldownie

**MacIlledhonaghart** MacDonald

**MacIlledhubhthaich** Duthie

**MacIlledhuibh** Black, Dow, Dowie, Huie

**MacIlledhuinn** Brown, Dunn

**MacIlleghairbh** MacGarrow

**MacIlleghlais** Glass, Gray

**MacIlleghuinnein** Winning

**MacIlleghuirm** Blue

**MacIlleítich** MacLatchie, MacLetchie

**MacIllelùcais**

(gen. *MhicIllelùcais*; voc. *a MhicIllelùcais*)

This name was used by shipbuilders employed by the Campbell chiefs in Argyll, and has possibly been anglicised as MacDougall or MacLucas and in Gaelic subsumed under *MacLùcais*.

**MacIllehanntaich** MacGillvantic, Mantach

**MacIllemhaoil** Bell, MacGill, MacMillan

**MacIllemhàrtainn** Gilmartin, MacMartin, Martin

**MacIllemhearnaig** Graham, Warnock

**MacIllemhìcheil** Carmichael, MacMichael

**MacIllemhoire** Gilmore, Gilmour, Morrison

**MacIlle-naoimh** Gilnew, MacNiven

**MacIllephàdraig** Milfrederick

**MacIlleriabhaich** Darroch, MacIlwraith, Reoch, Revie, Riach

**MacIlleruaidh** Gilroy, MacIlroy, Milroy, Reid, Roy

**MacIllesheathain** MacCheyne

**MacIllesheathanaich** Shaw

**MacIllethòmhais** Hosier, MacLehose, Mucklehose

**MacIllfhaolagain** MacGilligan, MacKilligan

**MacIllfhaolain** Cleland, Gilfillan, Gilliland, MacClelland, MacLellan

**MacIllfheargain** MacLergan

**MacIllfhialain** MacLellan

**MacIllfhinnein** MacLennan

**MacIllfhionndaig** Lindsay, MacClintock, MacLintock

**MacIllfhionndain** Clinton, Linton, MacLinton

**MacIlllianain** MacLennan

**MacIllimheir** MacLiver

**MacIlliomchadha** MacClumpha, MacLumpha

**MacIlliosa** Gillies, Lees, MacLeish

**MacIllonchon** Clanachan, Clenachan, MacClanachan

**MacIllonfhaidh** Lonie, MacAlonie, MacGillonie

**MacIllluidhir** MacClure, MacLure

**MacÌomhair** MacIver

**MacIonnmhainn** Love, MacKinven

**MacÌosaig** MacIsaac, MacKessack, MacKissack

**MacLabhraich** MacLaren

**MacLabhrainn** MacLaren, MacLaurin

**MacLachainn, MacLachlainn** MacLachlan, MacLauchlan

**MacLamraich** Landsborough, Landsburgh

**MacLaomainn** Lamont, MacClement, MacClymont, MacLeman

**MacLathagain** MacLagan

**MacLeòid** MacLeod

**MacLeòir** MacClure, MacLure

**MacLianain** MacLennan

**MacLibhir** MacLiver

**MacLothaidh** Fullarton, MacCloy, MacLoy

**MacLùcaidh** MacLuckie

**MacLùcais** Douglas, Luke, MacDougall, MacLucas, MacLugash

**MacLughaidh** MacClew, MacCloy, MacLoy

**MacLuinge** MacClung, MacLung

**MacLuirg** MacLurg

**MacLulaich** MacCulloch, MacLullich

**MacMhairis** MacVarish

**MacMhanachain** Monk

**MacMhànais** MacManus, MacVanish

**MacMhannain** Buchanan, MacVannan

**MacMhaoilein** MacMillan, Millan, Milne

**MacMhaoirn** Mearns

**MacMhaolagain** MacMillan, Milligan, Milliken

**MacMhaolain** MacMillan, Millan, Milne

**MacMhaolbheatha** MacBean

**MacMhaolchaluim** Callum, Malcolm

**MacMhaoldòmhnach** MacIldonich

**MacMhaolduinn** Brown

**MacMhaoliosa** Mellis, Mellish

**MacMharais** MacVarish

**MacMharcais** Marquis

**MacMhàrtainn** MacMartin, Martin

**MacMhatha** Matheson

**MacMhathain** MacMahon, MacMann, Matheson

**MacMhèinn** MacMinn

**MacMhiadhchain** Meechan, MacMeechan, MacMeeken

**MacMhìcheil** MacMichael

**MacMhoirein** MacMorran, Morran, Morrison

**MacMhorgain** Morgan

**MacMhuircheartaich** MacCurdy, MacKirdie, MacKirdy, MacMurtrie, MacVurathy

**MacMhuirich** Currie, MacCurrie, MacMurray, MacVurich, Murchison, Murdoch, Murray

**MacMhunna** Munn

**MacMhurardaich** MacCurdy, MacKirdie, MacKirdy

**MacMhurchaidh** MacMurchie, MacMurdo, Murchie, Murchison, Murdoch, Murphy

**MacNaois** MacNeish

**MacNaomhain** MacNiven, Niven

**MacNeacail** MacNicol, Nicolson

**MacNeachdain** MacCracken, MacNaughton

**MacNéill** MacNeil, MacRaid, Neilson

**MacNeimhe** MacNee

**MacNeis** MacNeish

**MacNia** MacNee

**MacNiallghais** MacNeilage

**MacNill** MacNeil

**MacNìomhain** MacNiven

**MacNòbail** Noble

**Mac O Seannaig** Shannon

**MacPhàdraig** MacPhatrick, Paterson

**MacPhàic** MacKillop, Park

**MacPhaid** Faed, MacFeat

**MacPhaidein, MacPhàidein** MacFadyen, MacFadzean

**MacPhàil** MacFall, MacPhail

**MacPhairce** Park

**MacPhàrlain** Bartholomew, MacFarlane

**MacPheadair** MacFater, MacPhater, Peters

**MacPheadarain** MacPhedran

**MacPheadrais** Fetridge, MacFetridge

**MacPheidearain** Fletcher, MacPhedran

**MacPhòil** Polson

**MacRaghnaill** MacCrindle, MacRaid

**MacRaibeirt** MacRobert

**MacRàild** MacRaid

**MacRaoimhin** MacNiven

**MacRaoiridh** MacCrie, MacRyrie, Ryrie

**MacRath** MacRae

**MacRiada** MacCreadie

**MacRìdeinn** Bryden, MacBridan

**MacRiocaìrd** Crockett

**MacRisnidh** MacRitchie, Ritchie

**MacRob** MacRobb

**MacRobaidh** MacRobbie

**MacRoithridh** MacRyrie

**MacRuairidh** MacRory, MacRury

**MacRusachainn** Kennedy

**MacShanndaidh** Andie, MacAndie

**MacShealbhaigh** MacKelvie

**MacSheòrsa** Cuthbertson

**MacSheumais** Jamieson, MacKemie

**MacShim** MacKim

**MacShimidh** Jamieson, MacKemie, MacKimmie, Sim

**MacShithich** Keith, MacKeith, Shaw, Shiach

**MacShitrig** MacKettrick

**MacShomhairle** MacCurley, MacSorley

**MacShuibhne** MacQueen

**MacSiridh** MacKinnon, MacSherry

**MacSuain** MacSwan, MacSween

**MacThaidhg** MacCaig

**MacThàmhais** MacCavish, MacTavish, Tawse

**MacTheàrlaich** Charleson, MacKerlich

**MacThom** Combe, MacComb, Thom

**MacThomaidh** MacCombie

**MacThómais** MacThomas, Thomson

**MacThorcadail** MacCorkindale, MacCorquodale

**MacThorcaill** MacCorkill

**MacTiridh** MacKinnon, MacSherry

**MacTuirc** MacTurk

**MacUalraig, MacUaraig** Kennedy

**MacUchtraigh** MacAughtrie, Ochiltree

**MacUilleim** MacWilliam, Williamson, Wilson

**MacUirigh** Currie, MacCurrie, MacVurich

**MacÙisdein** Hutcheson, MacCutcheon, MacHutcheon, Whiston

**MacUrardaigh** MacKirdie, MacKirdy

**MacUrchadain** Orchardson

**MacUrchaidh** MacMurchie

**MacUsbaig** MacUsbaig

**Mairsean** Manson

**Màrnach** Marno, Marnoch

**Màrr** Marr

**Màrtainn** Martin

**Màtar** Mather

**Matasan** Matheson

**Mathanach** Matheson



**Matharnach** Matheson

**Mèinn, Mèinnearach** Menzies

**Mhorair** MacKenzie

**Moirea, Moireach** Murray

**Moireasdan** Morrison

**Morgan, Morganach** Morgan

**Mothaid** Mowat

**Mothanach** Matheson, Moannach

**Munna** Munn

**Nòball** Noble

**O Brolchain** Bradley, Brodie, Brolochan

**O Luingeachain** Laing, Lang, Loynachan

**Pàisteanach** Patience

**Pàp** Pope

**Peadarsan** Paterson

**Pearsanach** MacPherson

**Peutan** Beaton, Bethune

**Pitridh** Petrie

**Puidreach** Buttar, Butter

**Réid, Réideach** Reid

**Robasdan, Robson** Robertson

**Roid, Roideach** Reid

**Ros** Ross

**Ròs** Rose

**Rothach** Munro

**Seagha** Shaw

**Seonstanach** Johnstone

**Sgaimeal** Scammell

**Sgéineach** Skene

**Sginnearach** Skinner

**Singleir** Sinclair

**Siosal, Siosalach** Chisholm

**Stiubhart** Stewart, Stuart

**Sùlan, Sutharlainn, Sutharlan** Sutherland

**Tàileach, Tàlach** Tallach

**Tàillear** Taylor

**Talmhach** Tolmie

**Tarail** MacDonald

**Tòiseach** MacIntosh

**Tolmach** Tolmie

**Ualas** Wallace

**Umphraidh** Humphrey

**Urchadainn, Urchadan** Urquhart

## Bibliography

- Ansell, M, et al. (2022). *Galloway The Lost Province of Gaelic Scotland*. John Dewar Publishers
- Black, G F. (1946). *The Surnames of Scotland*. New York: New York Public Library
- Calder, G. (1923). *A Gaelic Grammar*. Glasgow: Gairm Publications
- Clancy, T O. (2001). The real Saint Ninian. *Innes Review* 52; 1-28
- Cox, R A V. (2017). *Geàrr-ghràmar na Gàidhlig*. Ceann Drochaid: Clann Tuirc
- Cox, R A V. & Ó Baoill, C. (2005). *Ri Linn nan Linnntean*. Ceann Drochaid: Clann Tuirc
- de Bhulbh, S. (2002). *Sloinnte Uile Éireann. All Ireland Surnames*. Faing: Comhar-Chumann Íde Teo.
- Diack, F C. (1944). *The Inscriptions of Pictland*. Aberdeen: Third Spalding Club
- Dorian, N. (1978). *East Sutherland Gaelic*. Dublin: Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies
- Dwelly, E. (1973). *The Illustrated Gaelic-English Dictionary*. Glasgow: Gairm Publications
- Gordon, S (1949). *Highways and Byways in the Central Highlands*. London: MacMillan
- Grannd, S. (2013). *Gàidhlig Dhùthaich Mhic Aoidh. The Gaelic of the MacKay Country*. Melness: Taigh na Gàidhlig Mhealanais
- Hanks, P, et al. (2006). *A Dictionary of First Names* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Holmer, N M. (1942). *The Irish Language in Rathlin Island, Co. Antrim*. Dublin: Royal Irish Academy
- Holmer, N M. (1957). *The Gaelic of Arran*. Dublin: Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies
- Holmer, N M. (1962). *The Gaelic of Kintyre*. Dublin: Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies
- King, J. (ed.) (2019). *Scottish Gaelic Place-names. The Collected Works of Charles M Robertson 1864-1927*. Sleat: Clò Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba
- Martyn, A (2019). *Irish Surnames. Origins and Developments*. Galway: Adrian Martyn
- Michie, J G (1908). *Deeside Tales*. Aberdeen: D Wyllie & Son
- Newton, M. (ed.) (2006). *Dùthchas nan Gàidheal. Selected Essays of John MacInnes*. Edinburgh: Birlinn
- Ó Murchú, M. (1989). *East Perthshire Gaelic*. Dublin: Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies
- Scottish Qualifications Authority. (2009). *Gaelic Orthographic Conventions*. Glasgow: SQA
- Taylor, I. (2021). *Place-names of Scotland*. Edinburgh: Birlinn
- Watson, A & Clement, R D. (1983). *Aberdeenshire Gaelic*. Inverness: Mainprint
- Watson, S. (2007). *Saoghal Bana-mharaiche*. Brig O'Turk: Clann Tuirc
- Watson, W J (1976). *Place-names of Ross and Cromarty*. Dingwall: Ross and Cromarty Heritage Society
- Watson, W J. (1986). *The History of the Celtic Place-names of Scotland*. Dublin: Irish Academic Press
- Wentworth, R. (2003). *Gaelic Words and Phrases from Wester Ross. Faclan is Abairtean à Ros an Iar*. Deimhidh: CLÀR
- Wiseman, A E M. (1996). *Brae Lochaber Gaelic Oral Tradition and the Repertoire of John Macdonald, Highbridge*. Glasgow: University of Glasgow MPhil(R) thesis

In addition to the texts above, the Journal of Scottish Name Studies, the publications of the Scottish Gaelic Texts Society, Name Books of the Ordnance Survey, and papers delivered at the biennial Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig conferences are invaluable in sourcing Gaelic names and Gaelic forms of names originating in other languages.