



## History of the Murrays

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

The senior line of the Murrays took the surname of Sutherland and became Earls of Sutherland in 1235. Thereafter, the chiefs of the Murrays were the Lords of Petty in Moray, who also became Lords of Bothwell in Clydesdale before 1253. An heir of this line, Sir Andrew Murray, was the brilliant young general who, along with William Wallace, led the Scots in 1297 in their first uprising against the English conquerors. He was mortally-wounded while winning his famous victory at Stirling Bridge.

His son, Sir Andrew Murray, 4<sup>th</sup> Lord of Bothwell, 3<sup>rd</sup> Regent of Scotland, married Christian Bruce, a sister of King Robert the Bruce. He was captured at Roxburgh early in 1333 and was a prisoner in England at the time of the battle of Halidon Hill. He obtained his freedom in time to march to the relief of his wife, who was bravely defending Kildrummy Castle.

Sir Andrew commenced with unabated spirit to struggle in the cause of independence and died in 1338. The last Murray Lord of Bothwell died in 1360 of the plague. The chiefship of the Murray's fell into doubt amongst the various scattered branches of the name — from Sutherland and Murray itself — through Perthshire and Stirlingshire to Annandale, and the Borders.

By the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, the Murrays of Tullibardine in Strathearn had assumed the leadership of the Murrays. Bands of Association formally confirmed this in 1586 and

1589. Lairds from all over Scotland recognized the supremacy of the line of Sir John Murray.

Sir John became the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Tullibardine in 1606. Thus, the Tullibardine hegemony was firmly established between the Murrays. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Tullibardine married Lady Dorothea Stewart, heiress of the Earls of Atholl in 1629 and Marquises from 1676. To their medieval peacock's head crest (motto: Praise — ready), they added the mermaid (motto: Tout Prêt — quite ready), as Lords of Balquidder; and in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century they took the demi-savage holding a sword and a key commemorating the capture of the last Lord of the Isles by the 1<sup>st</sup> Stewart Earl of Atholl in 1475; hence, the motto: Furth, Fortune, and Fill the Fetters — go forth against your enemies, have good fortune, and return with hostages and booty



Prior to 1703 the Murray chiefs were the Earls of Atholl. They have been the Dukes of Atholl since then. For a time in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century the Murray Dukes of Atholl were also Sovereign Lords of the Isle of Man, with their own coinage and parliament: The House of Keys.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Duke's younger son, Lord George Murray, was the courageous Jacobite general responsible for the highlander's astonishing successes throughout the 1745 uprising.

The Murray Clan plant badges are the juniper (aitionn), for Atholl and the butcher's broom (gaigbhealaidh), for Murray.

The crest badges are the Peacock, Mermaid, and Demi - Savage. Pipe music of the Murray Clan is the "Atholl Highlander."

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

Currently recognized septs or sub-names of the Murray Clan are: Balneaves, Dinsmore, Dunsmore, Fleming, Moray, Murrie, Neaves, Piper, Pyper, Smail, Smale, Small, Smeal, and Spalding.

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*Source: <http://clanmurray.org>, the official website of the Murray Clan*

## Clan Septs

Family names associated with the Murray Clan: Balneaves, Dinsmore, Dunsmore, Fleming, Moray, Murrie, Neaves, Piper, Pyper, Smail, Smale, Small, Smeal, and Spalding (this list is shorter, but is in line with the list used by the home society in Scotland). The Clan Septs and Dependents comprise those who were descended from the Chief through the female line and consequently bore a different surname; and those who sought and obtained the protection of the Clan and became dependents.

Other septs of Clan Murray include: Balneaves, Buttar Butter, Butters, Flamanc, Flamang, Flamench, Flamyng, Fleeman, Fleeming, Flemen, Fleming, Flemmyng, Flemyn, Flemyne, Flemyng, Flemynge, Fleymen, Fleyming, Fliming, Flymen, Flymyng, MacKinnoch, MacKmurrie, MacMurray, MacMurre, MacMurree, MacMurrie, MacMurry, MacMurrye, MacMury, Mirrey, Monchryf, Moncref, Moncrefe, Moncreife, Moncreiff, Moncreiffe, Moncrief, Moncriefe, Moncrieff, Moncrieffe, Moncrif, Moncrife, Moncriffe, Monkreff, Monkreth, Montcreffe, Montcrief, Montcrif, Moray, Murray, Mouncref, Mowray, Mulmurray, Mulmury, Muncrefe, Muncreff, Muncreif, Muncreiffe, Muncreyfe, Muncrif, Muncrife, Munkrethe, Muray, Murra, Murrai, Murraue, Murray, Murrie, Murry, Mury, Neaves, Pepper, Phylemen, Piper, Pyper, Ratray, Ratre, Ratteray, Rattray, Retrey, Rettra, Rettray, Rotray, Smail, Smail, Smal, Smale, Small, Smalle, Smaw, Smeal,

Smeall, Spaden, Spadine, Spaldene, Spaldeng, Spalding, Spaldyn, Spaldyng, Spaldynge.

## Earldoms

Various members of Clan Murray have held important seats as Earls and Dukes in Scotland throughout history. They have included amongst others the following:

Earl of Atholl, The position of Earl of Atholl, also known as Earl of Tullibardine, has been held by the Murrays since 1606. In 1676 the title was promoted to Marquess of Atholl. In 1703 the title was again promoted to Duke of Atholl.

Earl of Dunmore (1661 to the present day).

Earl of Mansfield and Mansfield (1776 to the present day).

Earl of Annandale and Hartfell (1625 to 1658).

Earl of Dysart (1643 to 1698).

Earl of Sutherland, A separate line of Murrays by the name of “de Moravia” held the title of Earl of Sutherland from the early 13th century to the early 16th century. This title also made them Chiefs of the Clan Sutherland. The title went to a younger son of the Chief of Clan Gordon in the early 16th century, who in the 18th century changed their surname to Sutherland.

Earl of Wigtown (1341 to 1382) (1606 to 1747).

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*Source: <http://www.scotweb.co.uk/info/murray/>*