

**HISTORY OF THE CLAN  
DONALD: THE FAMILIES OF  
MACDONALD, MCDONALD  
AND MCDONNELL**

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History of the clan Donald: The families of MacDonald, McDonald and McDonnell by Henry Lee

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**HENRY LEE**

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AND MCDONNELL**



*The Maxwell Series*  
*Famous Old Families*

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OF THE  
CLAN DONALD

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BY  
HENRY LEE

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*Clan MacDonald*





## PREFACE



ALL races of men seem to have an intuitive feeling that it is a subject of legitimate pride to be one of a clan or family whose name is written large in past history and present affairs. Everybody likes to know something about his forefathers, and to be able to tell to his children the tales or stories about their ancestors, which he himself has heard from his parents. The commandment "Honor thy father and thy mother" is good and sufficient authority for that feeling of reverence which is so generally shown towards a line of honorable ancestry. The history of the family was a matter of much importance to the Greeks; it was the custom of the early Roman to place in the *aula* of his house the images of the illustrious men of his family; the Chinese go so far as to magnify such reverence into ancestor worship, and even the red Indian of our own Northwest recorded the traditions of his ancestors on the totem of his tribe. Well, then, may the story of the chivalry, courage and even lawlessness (so often the mate of courage) of their forefathers find a responsive echo in the hearts of the Clan Donald of the present generation, "who come of one house and are of one surname, notwithstanding this lang time bygone." It is not intended in this "History of the

Clan Donald" to attempt any genealogical investigation or show any family tree, but rather to tell of those bygone men of the Clan, in whose achievements and history it is the common heritage of all who bear the name to take pride and interest. Old stories of clansmen of reckless bravery, who were good and true friends but were fierce and bitter enemies. Stories of men of the clan who fought hard, lived hard and died as they fought and lived. Those olden days may seem a time of scant respect for law, of misdirected chivalry and of brave deeds often wrongly done, but there is surely no true MacDonald, McDonald or McDonnell who, in his inmost heart, is not proud to claim descent from a clan whose ancient records are replete with such traditions; whose later records tell of those early adventurers who left their native hills and glens for the new land of promise, and whose descendants have, in more prosaic times, earned honors in literature, arms and art. "It is wise for us to recur to the history of our ancestors. Those who do not look upon themselves as links connecting the past with the future do not fulfill their duty in the world."

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