



Tradition exists among some Highland Clans of ancient origin to bear two Clan names - one for common use and another to be spoken in the Gaelic tongue of the ancestors. Munro is such a Clan. The Gaelic name of this time honoured Clan is Rothach, "the man from the Ro", acknowledging the bond that the members of the Clan Munro have to the fertile farmlands of Easter Ross where so much of the history of their forefathers took place. The Clan's ancient lands, rich in Pictish remains, stretch from the rugged crags of Ben Wyvis, down along the banks of the Cromarty Firth, and throughout the region of Foulis in Easter Ross, where the Clan grew so strong that the Munro Chiefs proudly added "of Foulis" to their treasured title.

The first documented Munro of Foulis was Hugh, who died in 1126, and the next on record was George Munro of Foulis, who received a land grant from King Alexander II (1214-1249). While the baronetcy and the chieftainship parted in 1935, the 33rd Laird of Foulis is Captain Patrick Munro, who holds the residence of Foulis Castle in Easter Ross.

The Clan crest is an eagle with wings displayed and the Munro's bold motto is "Dread God". The Clan's loyalty to the cause of Scottish independence shone through in their support for the great King Robert the Bruce. In 1314, at the Battle of Bannockburn, possibly the most celebrated Scottish victory of all time, Robert Munro of Foulis led the Clan into the affray and into a special place in the heart of Scottish pride. This custom of loyalty to the Crown led the Clan Chiefs to be granted the baronetcy of Nova

Scotia by Charles I in 1634. Scotland's Highlanders are well renowned for their fierce fighting spirit and the Munros have well proven their Highland blood and the Munros Clan has been involved in many of the major battles on Scottish soil.

The Munros, however, were not content to merely fight defending their homeland - during the turmoil of the 17th century 30 Year War many became mercenaries and were some of the most feared soldiers on the Continent. Robert, the 18th Chief, raised 700 men for the army of Swedish King Gustavus Adolphus, who was probably the most successful European militarist in over a millennium. The Munro troops were so good that they earned the title "The Invincibles", and the Clan provided Adolphus with 3 generals, 8 colonels, 5 lieut. colonels, 11 majors and over 30 captains upon which he could rely. Ian Munro was not limited only to creating great soldiers. Alex Munro of Kiltearn was the first to translate the Bible into Gaelic verse in the first half of the seventeenth century, so his parishioners could read it in the traditional vernacular of their culture.

In the U.S.A., Ebenezer Munro claimed to have fired the first shot in the War of Independence and another Clansman, James Munro, became President for two terms between 1817 and 1825.

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