

ROSS

ROSS families held land in Ayrshire in the 11th and 12th centuries. The Clan Ross take their name from the province of Ross and are designated in Gaelic as Clann Andrias. Their traditional progenitor Fearchar Mac-an-t-sagairt (son of the priest) of Applecross, was a powerful supporter of Alexander II and for his services was created Earl of Ross in about 1234. His grandson, William, led his clan at the Battle of Bannockburn, and Hugh, 5th Earl, was killed at the Battle of Halidon Hill in 1333. In 1424 the Earldom reverted to the Crown but James I restored it to Margaret, mother of Alexander, 3rd Lord of the Isles, and there it remained until 1476. Other records of the name mention Roze (without surname) listed in the Domesday Book of 1086. Geoffrey de Ros, obtained from Richard de Moreville, the lands of Stewarton in Cunningham in 1189. An eminent member of the name was Sir John Ross (1777-1856) the Scottish Arctic Explorer and naval officer, born at Inchmanse in Wigtownshire. He joined the navy at the age of nine and served with distinction in the Napoleonic wars. From 1812, he conducted surveys in the White Sea and the Arctic, and in 1818, he led an expedition in search on the north-west passage. Alba, the country which became Scotland, was once shared by four races; the Picts who controlled most of the land north of the Central Belt; the Britons, who had their capital at Dumbarton and held sway over the south west, including modern Cumbria; the Angles, who were Germanic in origin and annexed much of the Eastern Borders in the seventh century, and the Scots. The latter came to Alba from the north of Ireland late in the 5th century to establish a colony in present day Argyll, which they named Dalriada, after their homeland. The Latin name SCOTTI simply means a Gaelic speaker. The associated arms are recorded in Sir Bernard Burkes General Armory. Ulster King of Arms in 1884. Registered in Scotland to the Earl of Ross.

Origin of Name: Place name, Ross-shire

Plant Badge: Juniper

Pipe Music: The Earl of Ross's March

ARMS - Gules three lions rampant argent armed and langued azure

CREST - A hand holding a garland of laurel proper

MOTTO - SPEM SUCCESSUS ALIT - Success nourishes hope