The McFadyen Clan

MCFADYEN,

Gaelic: Macphaidein (or Macphaidin) 'son of Paidean or little Pat'

Other Spellings:
- Fadyen, MacFadyen, MacFadin, MacFadion, MacFadwyn, MacFadyean , MacFadyon, MacFaddien, MacFaddin, MacFadzan, MacFadzean, MacFadzein, MacFadzeon, MacFayden, MacFeyden, MacPaden, Macpadene , MacPhadden, MacPhaiden, Makfadieane, Makfadzane, McFaddan, McFaddin, McFadzen, McFayeane, McFydeane, McFadyean, McPhadan, McPhaddion, McPhaden , McPhadzen, McPhaiden, McPyden, McSpadden, M’Faden, M’Fadzean, M’Fadzeane, M’Fadzeans , M’Fadzeon, M’Faggaine, M’Fedden, M’Phaden, M’Phadden, Phaidean, Paton, Padan, Padon, Padyen, Patein, Pateman, Paten , Patone, Patonson, Patonsoun, Pautoun, Patoune, Patoun, Patowne, Patovnson, Pattinson , Patynson, Patten, Patton, Pattoun, Pattoune, Pattounsoun, Pattowsone, Pawton, Pawtounson, Pawtoun, Pawtoune, Pedan, Peden, Pedin, Pedden, Petensen, Pethein , Pethin, Patenesone, Peathine

From the Gaelic "MacPhaidein" -- "little Pat", meaning son of Paidin, a diminutive of Padraig (Patrick). The name is first recorded in Kintyre in 1304. The McFadyens were the original owners of the lands at Lochbuie. They are also known as "Sliocht Nan Or-Cheard", "The Race of Goldsmiths" on the Isle of Mull.

The McFadyens are a very old tribe. They were the first Sept to join the Maclaines, although under dubious circumstances. It is a tradition that the McFadyens were the first owners of Lochbuie. When Hector Maclaine went to claim the lands given to him by the MacDonalds, he found the lands already under the possession of the McFadyens. For mutual protection (from various raiders and neighbouring tribes), the McFadyen Chief granted him permission to build a fortalice at the head of Lochbuie. After the castle was completed, Maclaine used the Castle to wage war on the McFadyens! Legend says that Hector climbed to the top and shot an arrow through a bone that the McFadyen Chief was eating. Not being foolish, the McFadyen Chief removed himself from the scene. Whether Maclaine was aiming for the bone, and hit, or at McFadyen, and missed, is a matter of speculation (and perspective).

McFadyen Dress.

This version is from mid 19th century records of the Inverness Tweed Mills, Inverness, now Pringles of Inverness. The late Miss Margaret MacDougall wrote: - "Beside the pattern is a note 'This piece of tartan was made at the time of Culloden. DMcD'. This appears to be MacDougall of the Tartan Warehouse - as it appears to be his writing and initials."

The McFadyens had a reputation for parsimony (being cheap), whether they deserved it or not, as in the following bitter little satire current in Mull, Tiree and Islay: "McFadyen of the
hen in the homestead of penury: though he stayed til she was boiled, he stayed not til she was eaten - for fear of paying for her." -- "Black's Surnames of Scotland", 1946, pg. 492

**McFadyen Hunting.**

Thread count taken from a coarse kilt in the possession of Dr. John MacFadyen of Stirling. The material was handwoven and made by a weaver in Rogart.

Many McFadyens moved to the Colonies, settling in such places as Victoria County, Canada, or to the United States, New Zealand, and Australia. Some became farmers -- one of the largest seed companies in Canada is named after them -- and others were blacksmiths, merchants, teachers, etc,... The name McFadyen is still common on Mull, Islay, and Tiree.

There is a Patoun(Patton) Stature in the square of Glasgow -- one of eight beheaded by Mary, Queen of Scots for being Presbyterian.

In 1975, Elizabeth McFadyen, (BA'63, LLB'64) was the first woman to serve on the Federally-appointed District Court of Alberta, Canada. Upon its amalgamation with the Court of Queen's Bench in 1979, McFadyen was appointed to the Queen's Bench. In 1993, she was appointed to the Court of Appeal, the highest court in Alberta.