

Mar 14th 1911

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Private Secretary

to

The Hereditary Chief of Clann Fearghuis
and Clann Ailpein, C.M., etc.

To

Prof. J. Goldziker etc 116 UPPER BROOK STREET,
MANCHESTER, ENGLAND,

Dear Sir

191

I purpose writing a history of the Clann Fearghuis of Strachur, and to that end, I am collecting all the information - as to Clann traditions documentary evidence etc - that I possibly can. I sincerely hope that my applying to you for your generous assistance will in no way inconvenience you, trusting that my object will be sufficient apology. I should therefore be glad if you would let me have any information that you may possess about the Clann and its traditions etc or, if you know of anyone who has such information I should be glad if you would

² give me their addresses.

Several colonies of the Macferguses (or Fergussons) were to be found over two centuries ago in Argyll. In the Cowal district of Argyll there were to be found many old families of the name. The Macfergus of Glen-shellich in Stra-char, was the chief of the Stra-char or Argyll Macferguses. He held the office of the Mairship of Stra-char attached to those lands, and claimed a direct descent from Fhearghuis Nabor who came over from Ireland and conquered Argyll in 503 AD. Fhearghuis Nabor was a son of Eochaidh, a brother of Muirchewartach the Old King (or High King) of Ireland. Daniel Chief of Clann Fhearghuis of Stra-char was the last of the family who held the estate of Glen-shellich in Stra-char, which was sold in ¹⁸⁰³ ~~1805~~. He married Caviniona a daughter of Iain Mac-an-Leistear Lord of Bernice, a Cadet of the

Chiefs of Clann-an-Leistear of Glen-Urcha, and died about 1805. Daniel had a family of ten, five of whom were sons. He was succeeded by his eldest son Iain who was known throughout Argyll as "Ghlium Nabor". There is an old gentleman living in Stra-char Bay, named Peter Leitch aged 84, who as a boy of six or seven years of age, saw the Chief Ghlium Nabor. Ghlium Nabor died unmarried and was succeeded by Aonghus Dubh. Could you enlighten me further as to the descendants of Daniel? The Chiefs of Clann Fhearghuis had the designation of "na Ghlinne" (or the Glens). They had a mysterious bird called the "Brideag Chlann Fhearghuis," who looked after their welfare, warning them of danger, and wailing audibly at the windows before the demise of any member of the family. I should like to know of any tradition connected with this "Brideag." The

Clann Thearghuis were originally buried
in a field called "Dall-a-Chaibel" in
the farm of Stra-chur Inhor. By the
orders of General John Campbell the
remains of the Clann were removed
to the present Churchyard of
Stra-chur Parish Church.

If you could furnish me with
any further information on
these or any other matters
connected with the Clann
Thearghuis of Stra-chur
I should feel extremely
obliged. Thanking you in
anticipation

I am Sir,
Yours very faithfully
A. Mac Artair-Lepi

Enclosure

Extract from "*Glasgow Weekly Herald*,"

August 20th, 1910.

In the issue of the 6th inst, I had a short sketch of the Clann Fhearghuis, and I have now the following letter from (A. MacArtair-Loft) the Private Secretary to Sheamais Chief of Clann Fhearghuis and Clann Ailpein C. M., etc.

We have undoubted proof that the original home of the Clann Fhearghuis was in Argyll. The Macferguses of Atholl are a cadet branch of the Macferguses of Stra-chur or Argyll, and the Macferguses of Balquhidder and Strathardle are cadet branches of the Atholl branch. We have authentic records of the Clann Fhearghuis of Stra-chur coming under the Protection of "THE MACARTAIR" at the latter end of the fourteenth century, and of the coming from Loch Caolisport, Knapdale. In Knapdale and Kintyre the name is still to be found under the form of MacKerras and MacKersey. In 1513 Iain Dubh, Chief of the Clann Fhearghuis of Stra-chur, fought under the MacCailean Mhor at Flodden. In 1646 Iain Gearr, Chief of Clann Fhearghuis, of Stra-chur was cited for assisting the MacCailean Mhor at the massacre of the Clann Laomainn at Dunoon, as it appears in the print of the trial of Gilleasbuig, the then MacCailean Mhor, who was executed in 1661. In the old Charters of the MacCailean Mhor the name MacFergus is spelt in the following forms:--MacFergus, Macphergus, Makfergus, MacCorwis, MacKerras, MacKerris, MacKerres, etc. In the compilation of the roll of the Clans in 1672, Donuill Dubh, the then Chief of Clann Fhearghuis, for some reason or other refused to record his arms, which caused some confusion, the Baron of Dunfallandy (who had signed) being erroneously taken as the Chief of the whole Clann Fhearghuis. The last Baron of Dunfallandy died in 1834.--" FIONN."

Christiana

