

SIR FRANCIS ALEXANDER MACNAGHTEN (1863-1951)

Sir Francis Workman Macnaghten was created a baronet of the United Kingdom on July 16th, 1836 [1]; the Baronetcy and the Chieftainship of the Macnachtan Clan has been passed down in his family ever since. Sir Edward Macnaghten, 4th Baronet, who also became a Lord and a Baron, died on February 17th 1913, aged 83 [2]. His eldest son, Sir Edward Charles, 5th Bart., died on December 31st, 1914, aged 55. World War I took its toll; his eldest surviving son, Sir Edward Harry, 6th Bart., was reported missing in action July 1st, 1916, aged 20; the second-oldest surviving son of Sir Edward Charles, Sir Arthur Douglas, 7th Bart., was killed in action September 15th, 1916, aged 19.

That made Sir Francis Alexander Macnaghten 8th Baronet at age 53. He was the second oldest son of Sir Edward Macnaghten and died November 1st, 1951, aged 88, having been Chief of the Clan for 35 years. He was succeeded by Sir Frederic Fergus, 9th Bart., third-oldest son of Edward, who died November 18th, 1955, aged 88. Sir Antony Macnaghten, 10th Bart., was the oldest son of Malcolm Martin, fourth-oldest son of Sir Edward, and died Dec. 12th, 1972, having been Chief for 17 years. Sir Patrick Francis Macnaghten, 11th Bart., was the oldest son of Sir Antony, and died 22 August 22nd, 2007, having been Chief for 35 years. Chief Sir Antony Macnaghten, 10th Bart., is mentioned in the story "Christabel Lady Aberconway" [3]. In October 2007, I came across a copy of a letter from Sir Francis Alexander Macnaghten, 9th Bart., written in 1939, the year before I was born. Here is how I got the letter.

In 1964 I turned 24 and wrote from London to several relatives in an attempt to learn more about my family history. I found an enthusiastic ally in Donald Osborne McNaughton, my first cousin once removed, who lived in Perth, Western Australia. Don had contacted the Clan Macnachtan Association in 1962, just ten years after it formed. On December 30th, 1964, Don sent me a copy of a letter he had received in 1939, after he found out that Sir Francis Alexander Macnaghten was Chief of the Clan. My copy of the original letter is hand-written on two sheets of paper, 5 x 8 in., with a royal crest and letterhead crossed out, "Grand Pump Room Hotel, Bath." The telephone and telegram addresses for the Hotel are not crossed out. The address at the time of writing is hand-written in the top left-hand corner: "Dundarave, Bushmills, C. Antrim, N. Ireland," with the date on the right, "Feb. 4th, 39."

Dear Sir

I am afraid that I cannot give you very much information. It is quite correct that I am the Chief of the Clan but there is no Clan Naughton (sic) Society in existence and the only Scotch members that I know are descendants of the Irish Branch. Burke's peerage gives a fairly correct history of the Clan & of the Irish branch. For this purpose old copies are as good as new ones & they are of little or no value.

Neil Munro wrote a novel (which is still in circulation) called Doom Castle. Doom Castle represented Dundarave and the family motto appears in the Book "Be not wiser nor the Highest I hope in God."

Your facts as to the fate of the Clan are I think quite correct.

I regret that I am unable to give you any more information. Thanking you for your good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

F. A. Macnaghten

What a pleasure to have some contact with the past like this. I have referred to Leigh Rayment's Baronetage [2] because it is online and Burke's Peerage is by subscription. A story about Doom Castle will follow shortly [4].

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REFERENCES

1. Angus I. Macnaghten, The Chiefs of Clan Macnachtan and Their Descendants, privately printed for the author by Oxley & Son, 1951.
2. Leigh Rayment's Baronetage (<http://www.angeltowns.com/town/peerage/baronetsml.htm>).
3. McNaughton, Ken, "Christabel Lady Aberconway," The Red Banner Newsletter, March 2008.
4. McNaughton, Ken, "Dunderave and Doom," The Red Banner Newsletter, June 2008.

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