



# Clan Farquharson

## Surname Spelling Differences

There are many misconceptions when it comes to the differences in spellings when it comes to Scottish surnames in general and Clan Farquharson names specifically. Hopefully this will help to increase your knowledge of this very confusing topic.

The first and oldest mistruth that everyone has heard is that surnames that begin with Mac are Scottish and those that begin with Mc are Irish. This actually comes from the word Mick, an old derogatory term for Irish people. The prefix Mac has in time been spelled Mac, Mhic, M', Mc, Vic and Mack.

The second mistruth is that if your name isn't spelled exactly like the ones on a given Clan sept list or book that it isn't your surname. The truth is that from the time your ancestor left Scotland to today the name may have changed spellings multiple times and it is no less the same surname today as it was then.

The third mistruth is that surnames stay consistent through time. This isn't the case as families will often change or alter their surnames on purpose. There are multiple reasons why a person or family would do this. But the most common way to do this is to drop the Mac prefix on a name or the Son suffix. While not seeming like a huge difference this can sometimes change a family's history

Finally the difference in spelling usually isn't meant to be a negative action. The people most responsible for changing spellings are census takers, school teachers, and immigration workers. When names like Finlay are also spelling Finlay, Findlay, Findley, Findlow and countless other ways it sometimes is amazing when you see a name spelled the same way between two unrelated people.