



# MAXWELL

Clan Maxwell Society

## Application for Membership



FOR SECRETARY USE

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Last year paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount required to  
make membership current:

\_\_\_\_\_

I hereby apply for membership in the Clan Maxwell Society as a  Full  Associate  Affiliate.

*(See the reverse side of this page for an explanation of membership categories. \*Note: All types of members are eligible to participate in all functions of Clan Maxwell Society, including voting at meetings and holding office.)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address line 2: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### OPTIONAL

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Business address: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a member of an **Allied Family** of Clan Maxwell, please list the family. (A list of Allied Families is on the reverse side of this page). For families not shown on the Allied Families list, please explain your family's relationship to Clan Maxwell.

\_\_\_\_\_

If you are a member of other Scottish groups, please list them:

\_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_

Dues and Application Fee (\$25 total) enclosed:  Check  Cash

Is this membership for someone other than applicant?  Yes  No

Name and address of receiver

\_\_\_\_\_

To whom should yearly dues be sent?

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Types of Membership

The by-laws of the Clan Maxwell Society provide for four types of membership — Full, Associate, Affiliate and Honorary. All members shall be entitled to vote, hold office and receive all other benefits of membership:

- **Full Member:** An adult 18 years or older who (1) bears the surname “Maxwell” or of the recognized names of an Allied Family (however spelled) by birth and descent or adoption, or (2) whose mother or any maternal grandparent, great-grandparent, or great-great-grandparent bears (or bore) the surname “Maxwell” or any of the allied names.
- **Associate Membership:** An adult who is the spouse or partner of one who qualifies for full membership.
- **Affiliate Membership:** An adult whose descent from persons bearing the surname Maxwell or the surname of an Allied Family is more distant than five generations; or any other adult person desirous of joining.

## Allied Families

Because of their close relationship as allies, septs or dependents of the Maxwell family in Scottish history, the following families are included in the Clan Maxwell Society:

<i>Adair</i>	<i>Kirkland</i>	<i>Paulk</i>
<i>Blackstock</i>	<i>Latimore</i>	<i>Peacock</i>
<i>Dinwiddie</i>	<i>MacKittrick</i>	<i>Polk</i>
<i>Dinwoodie</i>	<i>Maxton</i>	<i>Pollock</i>
<i>Edgar</i>	<i>Monreith</i>	<i>Rawlins</i>
<i>Herries</i>	<i>Moss</i>	<i>Sturgeon</i>
<i>Kirk</i>	<i>Nithsdale</i>	<i>Wardlaw</i>

## Dues and Application Fee

Annual dues for all classes of membership:	\$20
Application fee for new members:	5
Total due with new member application:	\$25

Application fee includes a Clan Maxwell emblem pin which will be mailed with the membership card.

**Note:** Members may pay dues in advance for any number of years in order to lock-in the current dues rate. If you choose to pay for additional years in advance with this application, please mention it in “Comments” on page one and add \$20 to the above amount for each additional year.

*Last updated 07/26/23 KW*

## The Border Reivers

The period from the War of Scottish Independence, about 1315, until the union of crowns, in 1603, was one of conflict along the border between England and Scotland. Both sides resorted to the use of wardens — royally appointed overseers — to keep things under control. It was seldom a very firm grip on either side of the border.

The term “reiver” probably applies best to the latter part of that period, the mid to late 16th century. This corresponds to a period which included the rules of Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, and Mary Queen of Scots. It was the term applied to mounted raiders who stole livestock and goods and engaged in a highly organized “protection racket.” The term “blackmail” in the English language dates from this period.

The term reivers was applied collectively to a number of families who were classed as “riding families:” i.e., they habitually raided on horseback. To “reive” was “to lift” or in the more modern term “to steal.” In the American west, the term “rustle” was used in a similar way. An excellent look at the border culture of the period can be found in the book, *The Steel Bonnets*, by George MacDonald Fraser. The most notorious of the riding families lived in the Middle March of Scotland, east of the area administered by the Maxwells. As a warden, the Maxwell chief would be charged with keeping the peace and redressing any wrongs charged to people under his jurisdiction. There is no record of Lord Maxwell going reiving, but one can certainly wonder if some of his tenants went along for the rides (and the booty).

Nicknames or bynames may give us an inkling of what colorful characters they were. How would you like to meet a man called “Archie Fire-the-Braes” or “Out-with-the-Sword” or “Cleave-the-Crune (Crown)” on the other end of a 13 foot steel tipped lance? These border riders were a colorful lot. Steel helmets or bonnets, body armor, and propensity for risk-taking made them a fierce and contentious lot.

— *Larry Long, Kingsport TN*

