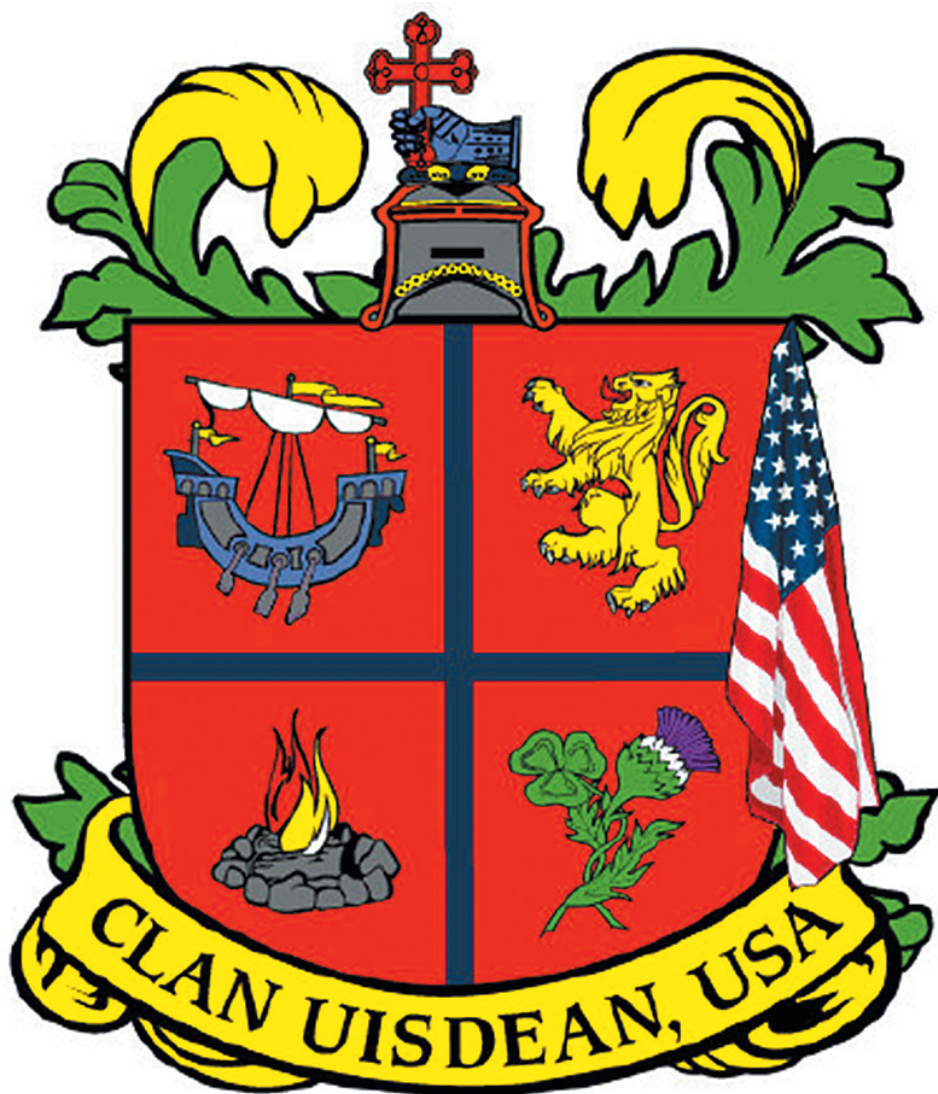


McQuiston, McQuiston, McQuesten, McQuestion,  
McCuiston, McCuiston and other related names.

# Mountain Echo

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*Above is the official shield of Clan Uisdean, USA, Inc. adopted at the annual meeting in Hearne, Texas, in 2003. It came about after a few years of wrangling with ideas and complications. In order to have an official Coat of Arms registered in Great Britain, there is a substantial fee of \$5,000 or more, and there are severe limitations on what images can appear. For instance, the American flag in not acceptable. We were lucky enough to have a family lawyer skilled in the art of Heraldry, who gave us plenty of free advice. It was finally decided that we would adopt a shield of our own design and register it with no one but ourselves.*

There have been many questions as to the real or true Coat of Arms for our family. The answer is that a true set of arms is only worn by the chief of a clan, and since we are not an official clan in the eyes of Great Britain, and since we do not have a chief, there is no true set of arms that we could all wear. However, there is a clan crest for the McDonalds of Sleat, or Clan Uisdean, which we are allowed to wear.

Here is a quick description of the shield we have designed for our Scottish/Irish/American clan:

UPPER LEFT: The galley is common on most Clan Donald arms and has two sources. It is said to be the galley of the goddess, Isis, and it is also said to represent three brothers who first took the Celts from Ireland to Scotland. It is quite coincidental that the first four groups of family immigrants to America also consisted of three brothers. So we chose to include this.

One of the three brothers coming to Scotland was named Colla Uais and we legally match his projected DNA, as determined by Clan Donald through testing of many clans who assume their beginnings with Colla.

We also were determined to be a "clear subset" of the main McDonald or Clan Donald DNA removing any doubt about our heritage.

**UPPER RIGHT:** The lion rampant is to be worn only by those who descend from royalty and since we descend from Viking and Celtic kings, and from King Robert Bruce of Scotland, and the Lords of the Isles, we are more than allowed to wear this symbol.

King Robert the Bruce's great granddaughter, Margaret Stewart, married Good King John of Islay, first to officially use the title Lord of the Isles.

Their son was Donald of Harlaw, Lord of the Isles. Donald's son was Alexander, Earl of Ross, Lord of the Isles and Justiciar of the Highlands. Alexander's son was Hugh of Sleat, from whom we descend.

Hugh was known as Uisdean in Gaelic - a word pronounced as similar to Ooshtn. His sons are recorded with various spellings of McUisdean and as Uisdean's-son (Hutchinson) and as simply Uisdean (Austin, Huston and Houston).

Many names trace back to this single chief who led the clan after his brother relinquished the titles Earl of Ross and Lord of the Isles. It was Hugh's line who tried to preserve the glory of the past, but who also engaged in much infighting. The only line that appears to have produced future generations of our name is that of Hugh's second son, Donald.

**LOWER LEFT:** The signal fire is representative of a signal fire in 1565 which drew our family back to Ireland. This episode is highly documented and makes a great story. Hugh had a son by a Gunn woman in Caithness, Scotland, which was an area still called Gallach by its Viking inhabitants. So this Donald became known as Donald Gallach. He is also recorded as Donle VicHuiston and as Domhnall Gallach Mc Huisdiuin in very early records.

Donald's son is recorded as going to Ireland to help his first cousin, Sorley Boy McDonnell on or about May 2, 1565. This is recorded in Scottish, Irish and English records. It was Alexander McDonald Gallach McHuiston who took our name to Ireland along with his sons.

The actual signal fire was the fiery cross later adopted by the Klu Klux Klan, so we chose a less inflammatory signal fire. The fire was lit at a place called Torr Head or Torr Point in Antrim, Northern Ireland, and called Scots to come to the aid of their kinsman. They landed at several places including Ballycastle, where our family is later found. Sorley's family also had a close link to Dungiven where more of our family is found before leaving for America. The distance between Ballycastle and Dungiven is not great and there are other small communities where our name exists or did exist, nearby - places like Balleymoney, Aghadowey and Macosquin.

**LOWER RIGHT:** The entwined thistle and shamrock represents our Scotch-Irish or Scots-Irish blood. Our family is proven to be among the first spoken of as Scotch-Irish. Queen Elizabeth spoke of "Sorley Boy and others who are of the Scotch-Irish race" on April 14, 1573, at the exact time that Alexander McHuiston was there at Sorley's side, along with all of Alexander's sons. So we can honestly claim to be the first to be called Scotch-Irish. The term is actually a condensing of Scottish-Irish, which was used in earlier documents.

**DRAPED ON RIGHT SIDE:** The American flag speaks for the heavy involvement of our family in winning freedom for America

during the Colonial period, and for settling so much of the frontier. This involves many stories, also highly documented, not the least of which is that Lord Cornwallis took over the Thomas and Ann Moody McCuiston homestead as his headquarters just before the famous Battle of Guilford Courthouse.

Unknown to Cornwallis, future President Andrew Jackson, himself a McCuiston descendant, was at the home earlier that morning helping Ann McCuiston hide a family treasure estimated at about \$25,000 in money of the day. The treasure was later given to Sam Houston to pay Texas war debts.

These are just a couple of the many stories of how our family tackled America from Jack McQuesten, Father of Alaska and Father of the Yukon, to ownership of what became Hollywood, to providing the berry trees that started Knot's Berry Farms, to settling many frontier areas, providing inventions, military service, political leadership, and even space exploration.

A man named Doug McCuiston is the leader of the effort to explore Mars. A man named Michael McCuiston is an Emmy winning song and sound man for many Hollywood movies from Die Hard, to Superman and Batman.

There are many other stories, perhaps less famous but just as important - stories telling of our family's major contribution to this country. And so we proudly display the American flag on our shield.

**TOP:** The crown and glove are carried on the typical Clan Donald arms and so we included these to show our connection to that clan - a connection proven through centuries of family tradition and through the last several years of DNA research.