

Lamont

Lands:	Cowal
Motto:	Ne Parcas Nec Spernas (Neither spare nor dispose)
Plant Badge:	Crab Apple

Clan Lamont descends from Ladman who was Lord of Cowal (south Argyll) in 1238, and whose descent was from the O'Neil Kings of Ulster. John Lamont of Inveryne was knighted in 1539 and had his principal seat at Toward Castle, where he entertained Mary, Queen of Scots, in 1563.

In the following century the Lamonts were Royalists, which brought them into conflict with their mighty and rapacious neighbours, the Campbells, whose chief, the Marquess of Argyll, was the leader of the Covenanting party.

In 1646 the latter invaded the Lamont lands and forced their chief to surrender his castles of Toward and Ascog, upon promise of safe conduct for his family and clansfolk. No sooner had they agreed than the Campbells siezed Sir James and about two hundred of his clan. They held the chief at Dunstaffnage Castle for five years (without allowing him to change his clothes); the other prisoners they took to the kirkyard at Dunnoon and there "they most cruelly murdered, without assyse or lorder of law, by shotts, by durks, by cutting their throats, as they doe with beasts, above ane hundred, and lastly they hanged on one tree thirty and six at one time of the chiefs and speciall gentlemen of that name,



and before they were half hanged they cutt them down and threw them in by dozens in pitts prepared for the same; and many of them striveing to ryse upon their feet were violently holden down untill that by throwing earth in great quantity upon them they were stifled to death”.

In 1661, when the Marquess of Argyll was brought to trial following the Restoration of King Charles II, the massacre of the Lamonts was one of the charges which led to his execution.

The Lamonts of Lamont continued to live in Cowal until the last of their old lands were sold by the 21st Chief in 1893. The present chief lives in Australia.