



Clan COWAN

ARMS

A silver shield with a red saltire and a red chief on which there is a gold fleur de lis.

CREST

Not available

MOTTO

Sic itur in altum (This is the way to heaven).

COWAN, Cowans, Cowen. Common surnames in Ayrshire, Dumfriesshire, and other Lowland counties. (1) Sometimes explained as from Scots *cowan*, a dry-stone-diker, but I doubt this explanation. (2) It may be a corruption of Colquhoun, the common pronunciation of which is Cohoon. Mr. Alexander Cowan, father of Sir John Cowan of Beeslack is said to have left on record that many of his grandfather's books bore the name of Colquhoun. (3) In the south Highlands the 'Mac' of *Macillechomhghain* disappears from the name and in Argyllshire, e.g. Iain MacCImhain becomes Iain Comhan in Gaelic while the English equivalent is Cowan. Couen 1687. The name of James Cowhen, chaplain in North Berwick, 1560 is most likely from another source. There was an old family of Cowane in Stirling (*The Stirling antiquary*, v. 2, p. 168-178). Cowan's Hospital in Stirling was founded in 1639 by John Cowan, a merchant there, for the support of twelve decayed Guild Brethren (Nimmo, *History of Stirlingshire*, 2. ed., I, p. 346).

Taken from "The Surnames of Scotland", by George F. Black, The New York Public Library 1999.

Clan COWAN Septs

COWAN(S)

COWEN

MAC COWAN, -EN

MAC QUOWN

This clan information sheet has been prepared by
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