

Clan ABEL



ARMS	A silver shield with a purple fess between three red boars' heads
CREST	Not available
MOTTO	Vive le Roi (Long life to the King)

This was a not uncommon personal name in the Middle Ages, derived from the Biblical Abel, Hebrew *Hebhel*, a name of uncertain meaning, but usually interpreted “breath.” Master Abell, clericus Regis, was one of the members of a mission sent to England to ask restoration of the earldom of Huntingdon in 1237. He also appears in documents concerning the Abbey of Kelso in 1235, and in 1253 “valuing his own promotion more than the honor of the king or kingdom caused himself to be consecrated bishop by the pope”. Nicholas Abel, a Scottish master mariner, was wrecked on the coast of Norfolk in 1388, Thomas Abel or Abell appears as burgess of Edinburgh in 1387 and 1413, and John Abell held land in Aberdeen in 1413. Robert Abell, chaplain in Brechin, is mentioned in 1512, and William Abel was tenant of Racharral, Kemnay, in 1696. The name occurs in Dundee towards the latter end of the sixteenth century as Abell, and is found in the parish of Kemnay in 1697 as Ebald. Thomas Abell was a burgess of Edinburgh in 1430, and a John Abell is there also in 1635. The kindred of John Abell, a celebrated Scottish singer of the reign of Charles II were later known by the name of Eball, and Abill in 1633.

Taken from *Surnames of Scotland*, by Black. The New York Public Library.

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