

Clan ABRAHAM



ARMS	A sun in splendour on a blue shield
CREST	Not available
MOTTO	Petit Alta (He seeks high things)

ABRAMHAM, Abram, the first of these Hebrew names is said to mean ‘chief (or father) of a multitude.’ And the second ‘exalted father,’ but the meaning and derivation of both names are uncertain. Bardsley says that Abraham was a popular font-name in England in the thirteenth century, and that “a glance at the London Directory will show that in general, Abraham represents the Old English stock, and Abrahams the more modern Jewish.” Abraham, chaplain of Earl Gilbert of Strathern, a frequent witness in the Earl’s charters, was probably Abraham, bishop of Dunblane, at a later date. He was son of a priest. Magister Habraham appears as a charter witness c. 1163-1175, and Adam filius Abriham witnessed a charter by umfridus de Berkeley of the lands of Balfeith to the Abbey of Abrifroth c. 1204-1211. Robert Filius Abraham in the parish of Fyvie was excommunicated in 1382. Thom Abraam appears in Aberdeen in 1408. Alexander Abraham, chaplain, witnessed a charter to William Peblis in 1491. James Abram, burgess of Inverness, was juror on an assize there in 1591, and George Abrahame or Abram was one of the bailes there, 1641. The place name ‘Abraham’ in Lancashire was originally *Eādbuge hām*, and was altered in popular speech through a fancied connection with the personal name Abraham. Habram.

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

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