

Clan BARCLAY

ARMS	Azure, a chevron Or between three crosses pattee Argent
CREST	(on a chapeau Azure doubled Ermine) A hand holding a dagger Proper
MOTTO	Aut agere aut mori (Either to do or die)
SUPPORTERS	Two greyhounds Argent, collared Gules



The Barclays were a family which came over from France with the Norman Conquest. The first spelling of their name was 'de Berchelai', believed to be the Anglo-Saxon version of 'beau', meaning 'beautiful', and 'lee' a 'meadow' or 'field'. The early settlers in Gloucestershire bore the Norman forenames of Roger and Ralph. Domesday Book lists them as owning twenty hamlets between the Rivers Wye and Usk. The Earls of Berkeley built Berkeley Castle as a fortress in 1153. Edward II was imprisoned and murdered there by his queen in 1327. The castle was so stout that its walls were only breached in the seventeenth century, during the civil war between Charles I and Parliament.

Some of the Family went north to Scotland where they settled in the north-east at Towie, Mathers, Gartley and Pierston in Aberdeenshire. They also settled at Collairnie in fife. Lord Roger de Berchelai, who is mentioned in Domesday, and, by tradition, his son, John came to Scotland in the retinue of Margaret, sister of the Saxon Edga the Aetheling, in 1067. She married Malcolm III, who bestowed various lands on her followers, including the lands of Towie to John de Berchelai.

The Barclays soon established themselves in strong positions in lands, offices and alliances, and took a notable part in national affairs, including the War of Independence. Sir Walter de Berkeley was Chamberlain of Scotland in 1165, and the duties of this high office would have kept him in close attendance upon his royal master, William the Lion. Sir David Barclay was one of the chief associates of Robert the Bruce and was present at most of his battles, particularly Methuen where he was taken prisoner.

In the seventeenth century, a branch of the family was established at Urie near Stonehaven in Kincardineshire. The first Laird of Urie, Colonel David Barclay, was a professional soldier who served in the armies of Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden. He attained the rank of major and remained in service abroad until civil war broke out in his own country, when he returned home and became a colonel of a regiment of horse fighting for the king. He retired from active military service in 1647 and purchased the estate of Urie in Kincardineshire. After the Restoration he was committed prisoner to Edinburgh Castle upon a charge of hostility to the government, but he was soon liberated through the interests of powerful friends with whom he had served during the civil war. During his imprisonment he was converted to the Society of Friends (Quakers) by the Laird of Swinton who was confined in the same prison. His son, Robert Barclay, second of Urie, was also a Quaker, and published *An apology for the true Christian Divinity as the same is held forth and preached by the people called in scorn Quakers* in 1675. The Apology, first published in Latin, was reprinted in English, German, Dutch, French and Spanish. Although the Quakers were generally persecuted, Barclay received great respect, even acquiring favor at the royal court. He moved with his family to London, and corresponded with Princess Elizabeth, niece of Charles I. In 1679 Charles II granted him a charter under the great seal, erecting his lands of Urie into a free barony. In 1682 the proprietors of East Jersey in America appointed him governor of that province, bestowing upon him five thousand acres of land. He never took up office but died at Urie in August 1690. David Barclay of Cheapside, the apologist's second son, founded Barclay's Bank.

There have always been close shipping and trading ties between the east coast of Scotland and Scandinavia and the lands around the Baltic, and the Barclays were involved in this trade. In 1621 Sir Patrick Barclay, Baron of Towie, the seventeenth Laird, signed a letter of safe conduct in favor of John and Peter Barclay who were merchants in the town of Banff and who wished to settle in Rostock in Livonia, on the shores of the Baltic. This letter still exists, and is in the possession of Barclay descendants in Riga. The brothers became silk merchants and burghers. From Peter, in five generations, was descended Field Marshall Michael Andreas Barclay de Tolly, born 16 December 1761. He

was made Minister of War in 1810 and two years later was given command of the Russian armies fighting against Napoleon. He avoided direct confrontation with the French and instead instigated a scorched earth campaign, leaving the country desolate through which the French troops were required to pass. The plan was a success, and retreat from Moscow in 1812 contributed greatly to Napoleon's final downfall. The appointment of a Scottish commander-in-chief was much resented by the Russian nobility, but nevertheless his capabilities were respected. Barclay de Tolly was created a prince by the Tsar, and his memory is still honored in Russia, where a portrait hangs in the Hermitage in St Petersburg. He died on 25 May 1818.

Taken from *Scottish Clan and Family Encyclopedia*, by Collins. HarperCollins Publishers 1994.

This Clan information sheet has been prepared by
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