



## Clan DURIE

<b>ARMS</b>	Azure, a chevron Argent between three crescents Or
<b>CREST</b>	A crescent Or
<b>MOTTO</b>	Confido (I trust)
<b>SUPPORTERS</b>	Two savages Proper wreathed about the loins with laurel, all Proper

**T**he origin of this name is uncertain, but it is thought to derive from the French 'Du Roi', indicating that the family probably came to Britain with the Normans. Some research suggests that they may have come to Scotland a part of the entourage of Queen Margaret in 1069. They settled in Fife and although there are accounts of Duries in that ancient kingdom as early as 1119, it is generally accepted that they rose to prominence as administrators to Princess Joan, sister of Henry III of England, who married Alexander II (1214-49). They were granted the estate of Craigluscar, near Leven, where a house, built in 1520, has a stone shield bearing the Durie arms and the initials of a George Durie and his wife, Margaret Bruce. Craigluscar remained in the family until the 1900's.

The family's prominence in Fife can be seen throughout the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries where the name appears in various important charters. Duncan de Dury was a witness for Malise, Earl of Strathern, around 1258. Other documentary references include Francis de Durey (c. 1250), Malisius (Malise) de Douery (c. 1350), Michael de Douery (c. 1373), John de Douery (c. 1406) and Richard de Douer (1405); it is from the latter individual that the main line is descended.

Burntisland Castle (now known as Rossend) was built in 1382 and has an armorial tablet about the entrance bearing the Durie arms and the date '1554'. Occupied for a time by Mary, Queen of Scots in 1563, it and most of the extensive Durie properties were confiscated by the Crown at the Reformation and the estates were sold around 1614 to Sir Alexander Gibson who, when he became a judge in 1621, took the judicial title, 'Lord Druie'.

Abbot George Durie (1496-1572) attained high position in both Church and State. He was Commendator, and the last Abbot, of Dunfermline (1530-61) before the Reformation. He appeared in Parliament on several occasions between 1540 and 1554 and was appointed an Extraordinary Lord in July 1541. He became a Lord of the Articles and a member of the Governor's 'Secret Counsale' in 1543 and a Lord of Council and Session, and Keeper of the Privy Seal, a year later. A staunch supporter of Queen Mary, his position at court was well established under her and her mother, the Queen-Dowager. A bitter opponent of the new faith, he brought his own cousin, John Durie, a monk, to trial for proclaiming the new teaching. The queen and the Queen-Dowager wrote several letters to their resolute friend while in their distress, and employed him on diplomatic missions to the court of France. He later fled there, taking with him the relics of Queen Margaret of Scotland for 'safe keeping' from the new order. There is a persistent story that Abbot George was canonized, founded on Dempster's *Historia Ecclesiastica*. The mystery is compounded by the fact that Sander's book was published in 1571 while it is thought that the abbot died in 1572.

The turmoil of the Reformation disrupted several Duries' lives. Abbot George's brother, Andrew Durie, Abbot of Melrose and Bishop of Calloway (1541), was despised by the reformer, John Knox. John Druie, minister of Edinburgh, was imprisoned in Edinburgh Castle in 1580. Robert Druie, minister of Anstruther, was sentenced to be exiled for attending a proscribed General Assembly of the Church. The family's strong adherence to Rome was continued by George's sons, George and John, who were educated at the Scot's Colleges in Paris and in Louvain. John joined the Jesuits and there is little doubt that he was 'Jesuite Durie', implicated in the conspiracy to release Mary, Queen of Scots and to depose Elizabeth I of England.

George's other son, Henry, through whom the family line runs, held the lands of Craiguscar. His wife, Margaret McBeth (Macgeith) was renowned for her skill with herbs. A favorite of Anne of Denmark, she attended the births of the royal children born at the Palace of Dunfermline. She was particularly successful in treating children's illnesses and supposedly saved the life of the future Charles I when other physicians had failed. John Druie, minister of Dalmeny, was also in favor with the Stuart monarchy. In 1621, he went to Oxford to study its library system with Archbishop Laud's approval. He traveled extensively in Europe and much of his work was published, including *The Reformed Librarie-Keeper*, in 1650.

In the later seventeenth century, a subsequent George Druie was a captain in Louis XIV's Scots guards and also a provost of Dunfermline. Several of his brothers fought in Flanders and a Belgian family line, 'du Ry', has been traced to them. In 1812, during the repair work to Dunfermline Palace, an important Durie relic was discovered. The Dunfermline Annunciation Stone, which depicts the Archangel Gabriel announcing the impending birth of Christ to Mary, was probably carved as a door architrave and displays the arms of Abbot George Druie, giving it a probable date of around 1540. The stone is now in the care of the Historic Scotland.

The Duries were chiefless for some time until the recognition in 1988 of Lt. Col. Raymond Varley Dewar Durie of Durie. He established his descent through his grandmother, Elizabeth Durie of Craiguscar, from Abbot George. He served in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders for 35 years and was in Shanghai when it fell to the Japanese; he escaped by making a journey of 2,000 miles to Chungking for which he was mentioned in dispatches. As assistant military attaché, he was responsible for the evacuation of wounded from HMS *Amethyst* in 1949 during the Chinese civil war. He is the co-compiler of a Chinese-English military dictionary.

*Taken from "Scottish Clan & Family Encyclopedia", by Collins, HarperCollins Publishers 1994*

This clan information sheet has been prepared by  
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