Clan Barclay International Newsletter
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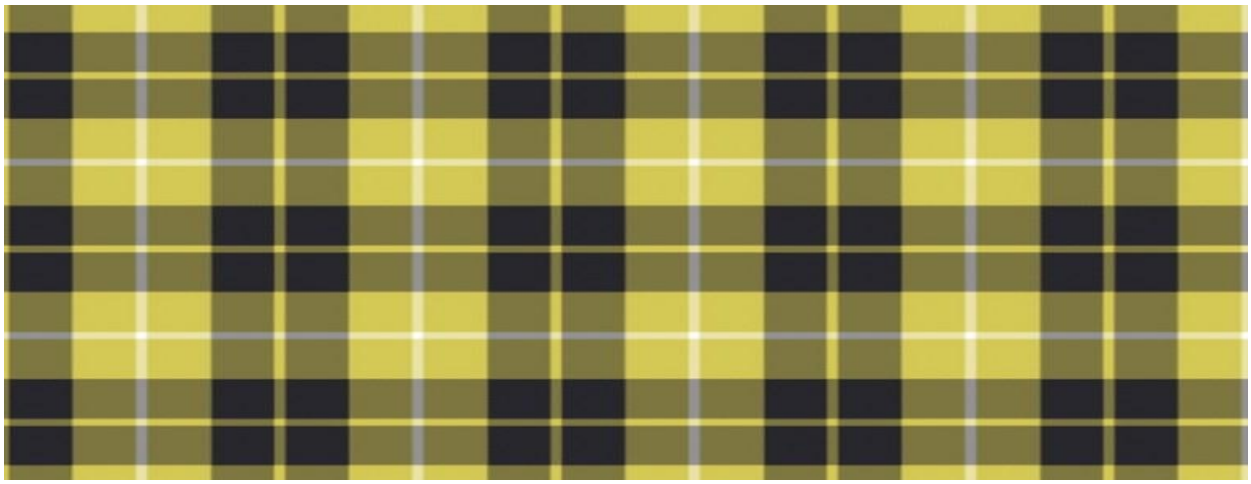
Barclay Broadside

May 2023



Greetings Clan Barclay! Here are a few items you may want to note on your calendar:

The Captain Barclay Allardice Society Annual Lunch will be on Sunday 3 September 2023–same venue as in 2022–the Tor Na Coille Hotel in Banchory, Scotland. More details to follow.

The Towie Pipe Band, led by our very own Drum Major Bill Barclay, will be at the following gatherings in Scotland in summer 2023:

- ➔ Oldmeldrum Sports: 17 June
- ➔ Forres Games: 8 July
- ➔ Dufftown Games: 29 July
- ➔ Aboyne Games: 5 August
- ➔ Ballater Games: 10 August
- ➔ Lonach Gathering: 26 August

See Bill Barclay and the Towie Pipe Band at this link!

I am beginning to put together the plans for a Barclay Family History Tour beginning in London and going through Scotland. Who wants to join us? If you think you might have an interest and want to be kept informed as the plans develop, please contact me at leah@clanbarclayinternational.org. Please let me know how many people would be in your group. I had originally thought I would try to organize this for 2023. However, since I know we would like to visit Towie Barclay Castle, and it is unknown who will own it in 2023, I think it is wise to wait until 2024. I will announce any updates as they come along. Thank you to everyone who has been in touch to express interest!

If you would like to share birth, marriage, or death announcements for your Barclay kin that you may want to see published in the *Barclay Broadside*, send them to me at leah@clanbarclayinternational.org.

Yours aye,

Leah

Message from the the Maor

Maor/mɯːr/– clan factor (doer/maker), supervisor, officer
By Leah Parker, MAEd

Introducing Humphrey Barclay, Chief of the House of Barclay of Mathers and Ury

In the last several editions, we have highlighted places and people important to Barclay history. In this edition we turn our attention to Humphrey Barclay, Chief of the House of Barclay of Mathers and Ury. We had the opportunity to visit Humphrey in September of 2022 and enjoyed not only his stories but also his many Barclay treasures. Enjoy this interview where he shares some of that information.

Interview with Humphrey Barclay

Leah: Can you provide a brief autobiography?

Humphrey: I was born in 1941, during the Second World War, at my Barclay grandparents' house Logmore, near Dorking in the county of Surrey. This was the new place the family built, I think in the 1920s, as a practical alternative to 'Old' Bury Hill, the grand home of the brewing branch of the family since Philadelphia-born Robert Barclay first rented it from the Earl of Verulam in 1805 and then bought it in 1812.

Bury Hill, an engraving made for Charles Barclay. In my childhood my father used to take me in a boat in exactly that position, to catch pike. | Courtesy: Humphrey Barclay

My father John Stephen, the second son of Robert Wyvill Barclay (Bury Hill V), was a barrister serving in the Westminster Dragoons during the war, and in 1940 he married the Sergeant Cook of his Officers' Mess, the artist Patricia Slade.

After a year they settled as a family – increasing it by the arrival of my two successive sisters - in a house provided by my Barclay grandparents in the pretty Surrey village of Shere. I was sent away to prep school at the age of 7, and then on to the 400-year-old public school Harrow, where I became Head of School.

At this age (what is it, six?) I was even being taught Scottish sword-dancing in honour of our roots. | Courtesy: Humphrey Barclay

Having won a Classical scholarship to Cambridge University, I didn't follow my teachers' predictions of academic glory but fell in with the amateur acting crowd (where my contemporaries included Ian McKellen, David Frost, and Trevor Nunn and Richard Eyre – both future directors of The National Theatre), and in my first and second years, 1961 and 1962, I was chosen to perform in the annual Footlights Revue. In my third year I directed the show, including in the cast John Cleese and Graham Chapman, later to become world-famous through 'Monty Python's Flying Circus'. This comedy revue, called 'Cambridge Circus', was an unusual success, and toured the world, playing in the West End of London, throughout New Zealand, and even, for a short three weeks, on Broadway.

As a result of this I was recruited into BBC Radio, where I produced a hit comedy series 'I'm Sorry, I'll Read That Again', and thence to Associated Rediffusion TV to create an award-winning children's comedy show called 'Do Not Adjust Your Set', which discovered the future star David Jason and put together for the first time the other Monty Python writer-performers: Eric Idle, Michael Palin, and Terry Gilliam.

Transferring to London Weekend Television in 1968, I produced the long-running sitcom series 'Doctor In The House', which had successive titles over the years. In 1970 I asked John Cleese to write six episodes for 'Doctor at Large', and one of them featured a bad-tempered hotel keeper and his dominant wife. After the recording I told John I thought there was a series in that hotel, and indeed there was: it became the BBC's 'Fawlty Towers'.

I stayed at London Weekend Television until 1983, becoming Head of Comedy and working with stars such as Ronnie Barker, Peter Cook, Michael Crawford and Elaine Stritch, and introducing to TV comedy the great Shakespearean actress Judi Dench and her husband Michael Williams in the sitcom 'A Fine Romance'. During this time, I also not only pushed the boundaries of comedy with the boldly modern 'Agony' and the end-of-the-world farce 'Whoops Apocalypse!' but became particularly interested in promoting Black talent and in 1982 produced the ground-breaking first Caribbean sitcom 'No Problem!'.

In 1983 I formed my own production company, whose proudest achievements were comedies featuring Judi Dench, Emma Thompson and Imelda Staunton, followed by the hit series 'Desmond's', a black-talent-based sitcom based in a London West Indian barbershop, which can still be found on Netflix to this day.

Leah: You have enjoyed an accomplished career. Can you highlight any favorite professional memories or achievements? Is there anyone with whom you especially enjoyed working?

Humprhey: Well, among many many happy friendships formed, I will single out Judi Dench who is just the sweetest of friends as well as our age's consummate actress; Emma Thompson whose comedy series 'Thompson' for the BBC led directly to her being commissioned to write her Oscar-winning screenplay 'Sense and Sensibility'; and Tony-winner Elaine Stritch, whose fierce command of comedy in 'Two's Company' left me bruised after every series but was a privileged highlight of my career.

Leah: What is your title regarding your position in Clan Barclay?

Humphrey: Away from all that world of tinsel and glamour and comedy, I am Chief of the House of Barclay of Mathers and Ury.

Leah: When did you inherit that title?

Humphrey: Robert Barclay's Bury Hill line inherited the title after the failure of the Ury Lairds' line with the death in 1854 of Robert Barclay Allardice the celebrated Pedestrian, who had no (legitimate) male heir, but a daughter and at least three out-of-wedlock sons. The title 'Chief of the House of Barclay of Mathers and Ury' passed therefore to Charles Barclay Bury Hill II, descendant of the Pedestrian's great-great uncle David Barclay of Cheapside, and I am directly descended from Charles. As the next male in line, I inherited from my father John Stephen, who inherited the title on the death of his elder brother Robert Edward Barclay, who had no sons.

I myself have no issue, so after my death the title will pass to the eldest son of the deceased eldest son of my deceased junior uncle Malcolm Eric. Simple!

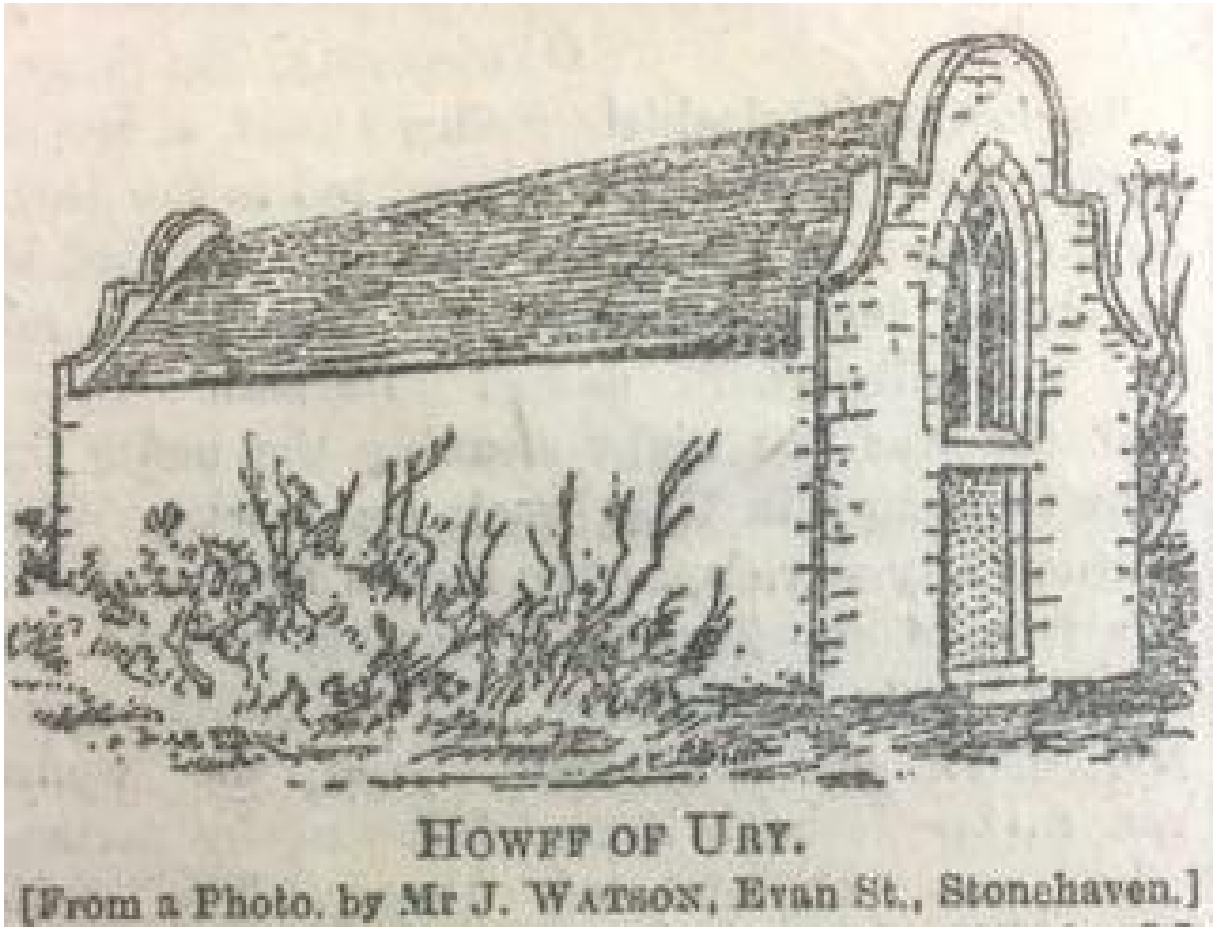
Robert Barclay Bury Hill I and his son Charles who inherited the line of Mathers and Ury from his cousin Robert Barclay Allardice the Pedestrian in 1854. This portrait is by the fashionable London painter, American Benjamin West. | Courtesy: Humphrey Barclay

Leah: You live in London. Which of your Barclay ancestors moved from Scotland to England and when?

Humphrey: It was my six-greats grandfather David Barclay, who in the early 1700s was free as the second son of the Laird to move to London, make his fortune as a linen merchant, and become known as David Barclay of Cheapside. There his eldest son Alexander failed to live up to his father's expectations (an illegitimate child seems perhaps to have been one of the problems) and was banished to Philadelphia, where he was ostensibly put in charge of his father's American 'business interests', and did become 'Comptroller of the Customs of Philadelphia'. At the age of 12 his son Robert was sent back to England and was put in the care of his uncle David of Walthamstow, who 'divested him of the gold lace on his coat and declared him to be a Quaker', and later bought the Anchor Brewery for him – spotting one day that it was for sale and deciding it would do nicely for 'young Robert'. Indeed it did, and if it didn't quite realise profits (in the words of Dr. Samuel Johnson) 'beyond the dreams of avarice', it was this Robert who became the founder of the then wealthy Bury Hill line.

Leah: I think you are acquainted with Richard Holman-Baird, who we highlighted in the last edition of the *Barclay Broadside*? Do you keep up with his developing efforts to restore the Ury Houff Mausoleum?

Humphrey: The Baird family bought Ury after the death of the Pedestrian in 1854, and subsequently some members of that family were interred in the hill-top burial ground known as the Howff, which had been first created by Col. David Barclay Ury I for his own and other Quaker burials. Richard is dedicating much effort to the restoration of the chapel-like building there, which was started by Robert Barclay Ury II (the Apologist), and it is to be hoped that he finds the necessary financial support to preserve it.



Old Sketch of the Ury Houff/Howff (Mausoleum) | Courtesy: Leah Parker

Leah: Arguably the most well-known Barclay interred in the Ury Houff is Robert Barclay, the Quaker Apologist. He was an ancestor of yours. What is your relationship to him?

Humphrey: Robert Barclay (1648-1690), the brilliant young Apologist (Exponent) for the Quaker Faith, is my seven greats grandfather.

Memorial Marker of Robert Barclay Ury II, the Quaker Apologist |
Courtesy: Leah Parker

Leah: Can you tell us about the most interesting accomplishments of some Barclays in your family tree?

Humphrey: Some of the outstanding Barclays in the Barclay line from the Norman Conquest to the present day are:

1. The mythical (according to historian Tim Barclay) John Barclay who in 1069 accompanied the English King's sister Margaret on a voyage to Hungary which was diverted by storm to Scotland where she married King Malcolm II, and he rewarded John with lands.
2. The "Cannibal" David of Mathers (or it may have been his son George) who in 1421 led local Lairds in an attack (sanctioned he thought by the King) on a hated local sheriff which ended with the unfortunate man being upended into a cauldron at the end of a day's hunting and the victors 'supping the broth'. After some years of being on the run, David/George escaped the death penalty through qualifying for an exemption granted to a wide category of relatives of the heroic Macduff for his killing of Macbeth – as in Shakespeare.
3. Col. David, the first Laird of Ury, who lived as a soldier and local leader through the turbulent time of the beheading of King Charles I, the rule of Oliver Cromwell and the restoration of the monarchy, surviving several periods of imprisonment in Edinburgh Castle and elsewhere, and – to general astonishment – introducing the family to the new Quaker faith.

Colonel David Barclay Ury I 1610-1686 | Courtesy: Humphrey Barclay

4. Robert 'The Apologist', his son, who while still in his twenties wrote the definitive explanation of the Quaker Faith, and in his short life became the trusted friend of King James II to the extent that he was made Governor for Life of the embryonic settlement of New Jersey.
5. William Barclay, Secretary to Mary Queen of Scots in 1566.
6. David of Cheapside, the second son of Robert Barclay Ury V, who went to London to seek his fortune, which he assisted by making two advantageous marriages – the first to his wealthy apprentice-master's daughter, and secondly to the heiress of a bank. He was to take up residence in a grand house in London's Cheapside, where in 1761 the young King George III and his new Queen Charlotte came to view the passing Lord Mayor's Parade.
7. 'The Pedestrian', the celebrated and to a certain extent scurrilous Captain Robert Barclay Allardice Ury VI (1799-1854) -- athlete, pugilist, celebrity, trainer, agriculturist, distiller and coach-driver, who at one time was offered the Governor-Generalship of Australia, only for it to be hurriedly withdrawn -- one supposes on further scrutiny of his character. This Robert tried to establish that he was heir to the Scottish throne through earldoms supposedly inherited by his mother, but his case stalled in the House of Lords, and he withdrew it when his daughter ran off with a common soldier, lest their issue should inherit the titles in due course.

Captain Robert Barclay Allardice Ury VI (1799-1854) | Courtesy: Leah Parker

8. David Barclay of Walthamstow and Youngsbury – the founder in effect of both the Brewing and the Banking lines of the family: a most generous and admirable man who dealt with his embarrassment of a Quaker acquiring a parcel of slaves in Jamaica by an astonishing act of humanity, inviting them to be transported to Philadelphia for education and support as free citizens of America. (See my video 'David Barclay and October', available on YouTube at this link.)

Keith Stokes and Humphrey Barclay from the Video,
"David Barclay and October Barclay: 1795 to Today"

Leah: If you could time travel and have dinner with one person from your family tree, who would it be? What would you want to talk about?

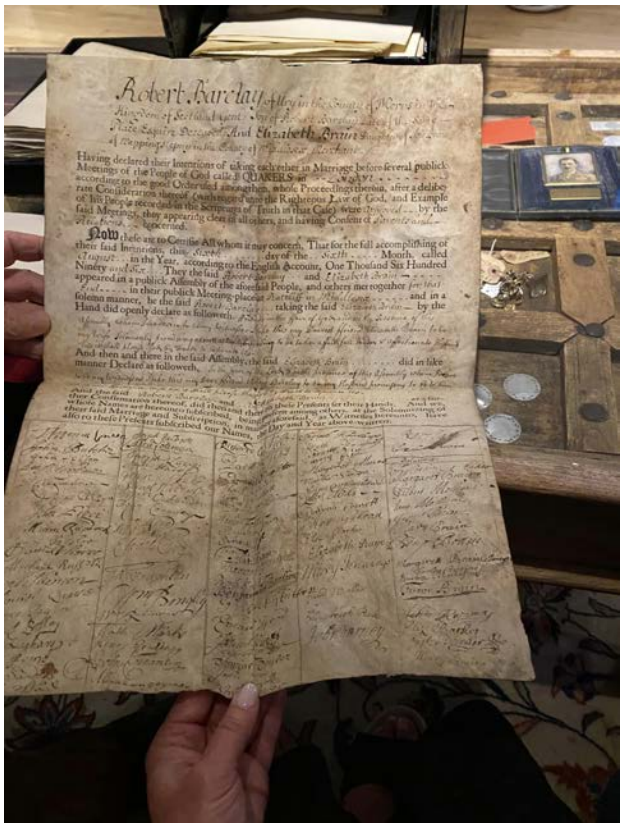
Humphrey: It would surely be David Barclay of Walthamstow and Youngsbury, and we would talk about man's unhumanity to man … and what the ordinary person can do about it.

My hero, the quiet Quaker David Barclay of Walthamstow and Youngsbury, whose 18th century banking and merchant interests brought him into reluctant ownership of a small estate in Jamaica on which lived 32 slaves. Already an abolitionist, and inspired by the Quaker belief that there is God in everyone, David decided on an act of unprecedented reparation. Sending an agent to Jamaica, he offered them new lives in America, and when 28 of them accepted, had them conducted to Philadelphia where he funded their education, housing, and craft training as free citizens of America. One of them was an 8-year-old boy called October.

In 2016 I met October's great-great-grandson the historian Keith W. Stokes on the pen in Jamaica and with him celebrated the vision and humanity of this humble and good-humoured man. | Courtesy: Humphrey Barclay

Leah: You are in possession of some special Barclay treasures. What are your favorites?

Humphrey: A sword and a silver-topped walking cane belonging to Col. David Barclay Ury I; a silver-labeled walking stick belonging to Robert Barclay the Apologist Ury II; a two-handled George III engraved silver porringer from Ury; a battered tin trunk bearing the name Robert Barclay Allardice of Ury; the Quaker marriage certificate of Robert Barclay Ury III and Elizabeth Brain in 1696; the original handwritten 1531 Grant of Mathers to Alexander Barclay; a piece of the Apologist's green silk brocade waistcoat; the gold and agate Anti-Slave-Trade seal used by David Barclay of Walthamstow and Youngsbury, and of course the portrait of him which some ambitious member of his subsequent family decided to say was by Zoffany – an attribution I am currently seeking to verify.



Quaker Marriage Certificate of Robert Barclay Ury III and Elizabeth Brain in 1696 | Courtesy: Humphrey Barclay and Leah Parker

Piece of a Waistcoat Belonging to Robert Barclay Ury II, the Quaker Apologist | Courtesy: Humphrey Barclay and Leah Parker

Leah: Tell us a bit about your work in Africa and how you became involved there initially.

Humphrey: One of the memorable characters in the barbershop comedy 'Desmond's' was an African student, played by Ghanaian actor Christopher Gyearbuor Asante. He was a good friend of mine, and when he died in 2000, as my TV career paused, I attended his funeral in Accra. At the closing ceremony the Chief of his ancestral village spotted an opportunity and pounced on me as a prospective 'Development Officer' for his rural community. I accepted and thus became a working African Chief, with the name Nana Kwadwo Ameyaw Gyearbuor Yiadom I, and for the next 14 years worked with an eager (and formally registered as a Charity) committee of friends and relatives called 'Friends of Tafo' to raise almost £1m for education, social amenities and health in the small rural village of Kwahu Tafo.

In 2014 I retired myself and Friends of Tafo and was lucky enough to hand over to a wonderfully dedicated American husband and wife team Dutch and BL Meyer, who with their charitable organization 'Yeko Anim' have valiantly carried on the good work since then.

This surprising period of my life coincided with my retirement from TV, and remains a proud and happy achievement. A typical example of the effect we had is demonstrated by the case of one young Kwahu Tafo boy, raised alone in a hut by an alcoholic father and too poor to even buy lunch as his school, who diligently took advantage of all the help we provided over the years and has recently graduated with a First Class Degree in Computer Sciences from Coventry University in the UK.

My rewarding years in Ghana again explored my happy ability to spot potential and persuade talented people to make the most of it. It would seem that it was the combination of my father's quiet aristocratic instinct for leadership and my mother's artistic gifts which gave me a happy temperament and a truly rewarding life -- which surprisingly has turned out to be quite largely focused, as David of Walthamstow and Youngbury's was, on the development of the lives of people of African heritage.

In Ghanian Cloth, Stitched with Barclay Tartan | Courtesy: Humphrey Barclay

Leah: Is there anything else you want to share with Clan Barclay?

Humphrey: No, not that I can think of – unless you want to add that throughout my life, I have also enjoyed doing cartoons and caricatures – a pastime which, as they say, has kept me off the streets.

Some Caricatures Done When I was Younger | Left to Right: Peter O'Toole, Margot Fonteyn, Barbra Streisand, John Cleese | Courtesy: Humphrey Barclay

Postscript

By Leah Parker, MAEd

Many American Barclays and Barkleys have claimed to descend from the Ury Barclays through brothers Robert Barclay (1722/23-1788) or Samuel Barclay Sr (1725-1803) of Rowan County, North Carolina, or through the unrelated Henry Barkley (1725-1808), also of Rowan County, North Carolina. DNA and documentary evidence has been helpful in clarifying any such relationships. For more information, see below:

- For more information regarding DNA and documentary evidence and Robert Barclay (1722/23-1788) and brother Samuel Barclay Sr (1725-1803) and any ties to the Ury Barclays, see this link.
- For more information regarding Robert Barclay (1722/23-1788) and his wife Leah of Rowan County, North Carolina, see these articles previously published in the Barclay Broadside.
    - Part 1: Summer 2006
    - Part 2: Holiday 2006
- For more information regarding DNA and documentary evidence and Robert Barclay (1722/23-1788), his brother Samuel Barclay Sr (1725-1803), and the unrelated Henry Barkley and their ties to American legends, see the February 2022 edition of the *Barclay Broadside*.

Robert Barclay (1722/23-1788) and his wife Leah were my 5X great-grandparents, and I have done extensive research on this line. If you have any questions about this family, please feel free to contact me at leah@clanbarclayinternational.org.

Filidh's Feature

Filidh /fɪlɪ/– clan genealogist, historian, storyteller, poet
By Tim Barclay

The Barclays of Fife: Part 2

Lordscairnie Castle, Built by the Lindsay Earls of Crawford, Probably on the Site of an Earlier Fortification at Carnie Barclay, Moonzie parish, Fife [Photo: Canmore DP 208138]

As is well-known, David of Cockairnie's father, David II de Berkeley, was killed in Aberdeen in January 1351. His elder son, David III de Berkeley, then succeeded to the lordships of Brechin and Lordscairnie. It may be noted, as both David II and his wife, Margaret de Brechin, had fathers named David, the presence of two sons named David makes far more sense to occur in this generation, rather than the previous one. Regardless, David III de Berkeley "of Cairney" appears in two records dating to between 1342 and 1354, at least one of which probably predates his succession to Brechin.

According to all previous historians, David III survived his father for many years and issued charter granting his lands of Kinsleith, part of the lordship of Lordscairnie, to his cousin, Hugh de Barclay of Kippo and Arngask, "son of our uncle David," probably in the late 1350s or early 1360s. He also issued a confirmation witnessed by Alexander de Lindsay and David de Berkeley "our uncles" in October 1363. However, this understanding relies upon the placement of David of Cockairnie as the brother of David II. With the rearrangements of Cockairnie as David II's younger son though, it is apparent there must be an unrecognised son of David III, David IV, who granted these charters.

Strong support for the conjecture that there were three, not two, David Barclays of Brechin is found in the marriage of David IV's daughter and heir, Margaret, to Walter Stewart, later Earl of Caithness and Athol, in the mid-1370s. According to the previous arrangement of the Barclays of Fife, Margaret was the great-great-granddaughter of Hugh de Berkeley, justiciar of Lothian, via his second son, David I, but Walter Stewart was also great-great grandson of Hugh via his daughter Euphemia, wife of William, Earl of Ross. By this then, husband and wife were related in the fourth and fourth degrees of kinship, meaning a papal dispensation for their marriage would have been required. However, no such dispensation is known of and the matter, it seems, is undiscussed. With Margaret instead as the daughter of David IV of Brechin though, she and her husband were related in the fourth and fifth degrees of kinship, making a dispensation for their marriage unnecessary.

To be continued …

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Clan Barclay International

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