Clan Barclay International Newsletter
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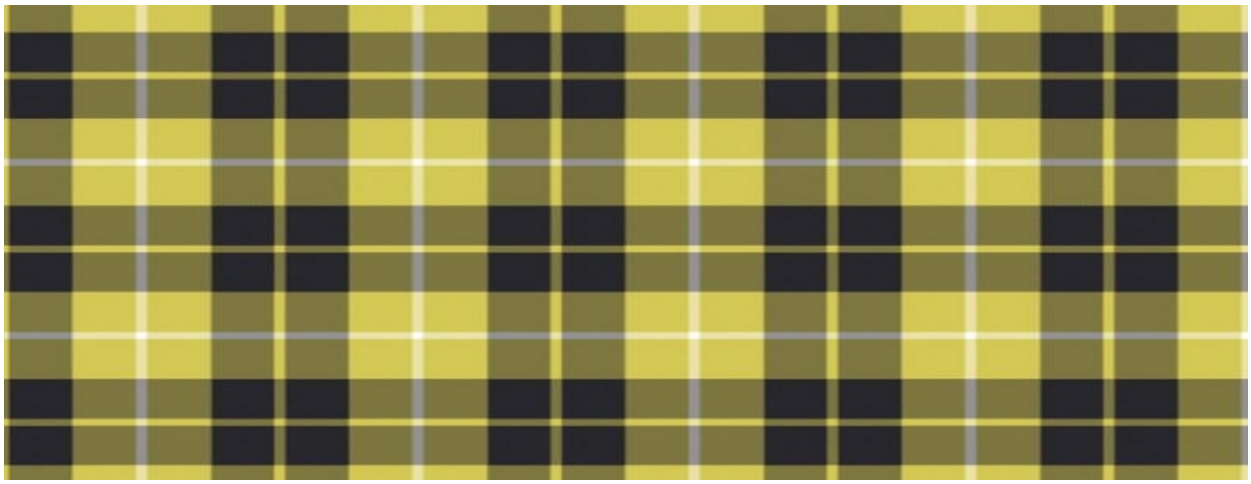
Barclay Broadside

October 2022



Message from the the Maor

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

Greetings Clan Barclay! You may have noticed there was no September 2022 edition of the *Barclay Broadside*. My apologies for that! My travels through Scotland took me to the end of September, so I was unable to publish that month's edition. I am back and ready to publish now! Over the next few months, I will be sharing some of my adventures at places important to Barclay history.

And that leads me to a question. I wonder who has an interest in doing a family history tour beginning in London and going through Scotland. I am just beginning to put together the details. 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.

Yours aye,

Leah

The Barclay-Berkeley Connection: Seeing it in Person

By Leah Parker, MAEd

I recently had the opportunity to visit Berkeley Castle in Gloucestershire, England. Accompanied by my husband and Humphrey Barclay, we had the honor of being hosted for a private tour by the current owner, Charles Berkeley. The Berkeley/Barclay family connection is an ancient one and was discussed at length by our clan *filidh*, Tim Barclay, in the August edition of the *Barclay Broadside*. Please see that article for the full story, but in summary, the Berkeley family, which still occupies Berkeley Castle, descends from Alice de Berkeley and her husband Maurice Fitz Robert Fitz Harding, whose descendants took the Berkeley name. The Scottish Barclays descend from Alice's brother Roger IV de Berkeley. Siblings Alice de Berkeley and Rober IV de Berkeley were born most likely in the late 1140s. Roger IV de Berkeley had a son, Roger V de Berkeley, who had a son Roger VI de Berkeley, who had sons Hugh, Donald, and Walter de Berkeley. As Tim explained in the August edition, "Donald certainly, and Walter very probably, died in their father's lifetime, leaving Hugh to succeed to all his parents' lands…." It was Hugh who then went to Scotland and eventually became Justiciar of Lothian and the progenitor of the Scottish Barclays.

Entering the Castle Courtyard with Charles Berkeley | Courtesy: Leah Parker

Main Entrance to Berkeley Castle | Courtesy: Leah Parker

The website for the castle boasts “Berkeley Castle is a jewel in the crown of British history.” I must say that I agree. Berkeley Castle has enormous historical significance and is the castle longest occupied by a single family in all of the UK. The History section of the castle’s site goes into detail:

> *The most remarkable thing about the Castle is that for nine centuries, the building, the Berkeley family, the archives (which go back to the 12th Century), the contents, the estate and the town have all survived together.*
>
> *Its place in history is significant, not just because it is still intact, but because the Berkeley family and their home have played an important part in the power struggles of so many centuries.*
>
> *The Castle is one of the March Castles, built to keep out the Welsh. It has all the trappings to match: trip steps designed to make the enemy stumble during an assault, arrow slits, murder holes, enormous barred doors, slots where the portcullis once fell, and worn stones where sentries stood guard.*
>
> *It is also a fairytale Castle with its warm pink stone that glows in soft sunset light. Outside, the battlements drop some 60' to the Great Lawn below; but inside the Inner Courtyard, the building is on a human scale, with uneven battlements, small towers, doors and windows of every shape and size. The surrounding land would have been flooded for defence.*
>
> *…The Family are the only English family still in existence in England that can trace its ancestors from father to son back to Saxon times. English history has been lived out within these walls - and by this family. The Castle is the oldest building in the country to be inhabited by the same family who built it.*
>
> *For centuries, the Berkeleys were close to the throne, able administrators and fighters who supported their king or queen (as long as they could), backed the winning side, and married well. The Castle, naturally enough, is full of stories.*
>
> *The Contents of The Castle are items that have been chosen, collected and treasured by members of the Berkeley family throughout the centuries, and many reflect the history of the place. They include Francis Drake's cabin chest, Queen Elizabeth I's bedspread, and the banner that the 4th*

Earl of Berkeley took with him to the Battle of Culloden. Many of the unusual tapestries, paintings, ceramics and silverware, have their own story to tell.

Berkeley Castle Great Hall and Site of the Death of the Last Court Jester in England | Courtesy: Leah Parker

In the Great Hall are the Flags Flown at Culloden (Foreground) and Flodden (background) | Courtesy: Leah Parker

The Estate consists of 6,000 acres, and includes one of the best examples of a mediaeval deer park in the country, 18 tenant farms, a stretch of the River Severn and the land on which the famous Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge is situated.

Berkeley town itself goes back in time as far as the Castle, and evidence suggests that there was a large Saxon settlement and possibly, a Roman Temple.

Humphrey Barclay Surveying Berkeley Grounds | Courtesy: Leah Parker

Berkeley Castle was the inspiration or setting for many important stories in British and world history:

Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream was written for a Berkeley family wedding.

The murder of King Edward II notoriously took place here in 1327.

This is the cell where King Edward II was imprisoned. History records that he was murdered in the castle in a plot hatched by his wife and her lover. | Courtesy: Leah Parker

The Barons of the West gathered at Berkeley before setting out to the momentous meeting with King John at Runnymede at which the Magna Carta was signed.

During the English Civil War, the Royalists surrendered the Castle to the Parliamentarians after a siege.

The very first American Thanksgiving was held by Berkeley men.

Yale and the University of California both benefited from the legacy of Bishop George Berkeley of Cloyne in the 18th Century.

Edward Jenner, the son of the vicar of the town of Berkeley, developed the smallpox vaccination.

The last court jester in England died here in the Castle when he tumbled from the minstrel's gallery in the Great Hall (did he fall, or was he pushed?).

The Castle has many links with the monarchs of England: most notably King John, Henry VII, Henry VIII, Queen Elizabeth I, Charles I, George I, the Prince Regent - to name but a few.

Francis Drake, Queen Elizabeth I's most famous sea captain, was a regular visitor to Berkeley.

Sir Francis Drake's Furniture from His Ship | Courtesy: Leah Parker

Sir Francis Drake's Treasure Chest | Courtesy: Leah Parker

It may come as no surprise to you that I am a genealogy nerd. Not only do I love researching my own genealogy, but I am also fascinated by other people's family histories, as well. Thus, I love to watch shows like *Who Do You Think You Are*. Season 8, episode 1 featured Courteney Cox (made famous by her role as Monica Geller on the hit sitcom *Friends*), and they traced her lineage back to the Berkeley family of Berkeley Castle. So add Courteney Cox to our list of distinguished (very) distant cousins! Part of this episode of *Who Do You Think You Are* was shot on location at the castle. Besides this episode, Berkeley Castle has served as a filming location for several television and film productions, fiction and nonfiction alike, some of which you may have viewed. See this link for a full list.

Here, I must thank Humphrey Barclay for accompanying us on this adventure through history and Charles Berkeley for being so generous with his time and serving as our gracious host for the day. It was an unforgettable day and an experience for which I am grateful!

Visiting Berkeley Castle: (L to R) Humphrey Barclay, Leah Parker, Charles Berkeley | Courtesy: Leah Parker

Filidh's Feature

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

The Barclay-Berkeley Connection, Cont.

While the origins of the surname Barclay are now established, this does not mean every Barclay individual may trace their origins to the same. Many cannot. Nor, on the other hand, does it mean no individuals bearing other surnames are not descended from the Barclays of Scotland. In many cases, clearly, they do. But these are unique family groups, the male patrilineal ancestors of whom, for non-genetic reasons, changed their surname to or from Barclay, which was then transmitted to their descendants.

How is it that surname changes occur? While it is generally accepted by genealogists that possession of a certain surname indicates a paternal descent, there are few if any legal requirements for this to occur. Surnames change by what are generally termed "non-parental events" (often abbreviated NPEs) and include such things as marriages, adoptions, illegitimacy, matrilineal significance, inheritance and entails, etc. The Barclay surname is no more immune to these factors than is any other surname and such NPEs have occurred many times in clan history across several centuries.

Some NPEs are clearly identifiable. The succession to Towie-Barclay from the late 1600s by males surnamed Gordon and Inness but whose children went by Barclay, or the adoption of the surname Barclay by October, the freed slave of David Barclay of Urie, provide succinct examples of this. Other NPEs are harder to trace though, as shown by the transition to Barclay by members of the Barley family in the Isles, the Bartleys in Ireland, the Barcletts in Fife and Bartletts in a wide belt of northern Scotland, or the Bartholomews and Barclaymen of southern and central Scotland, at various stages in the 1700s and 1800s. In such cases, detection of these NPEs may only be determined with the assistance of genetic testing.

The prevalence of all NPEs is difficult to determine, but a useful guide may be obtained by comparing the results of individuals who have undergone Y-DNA testing with Clan Barclay at ftdna.com. To date, of 87 individuals of interest, 37 possessing the surname Barclay have no identifiable genetic relationship to the Barclays of Scotland, while another 12 who do have such a relationship,

use a surname other than Barclay. In other words, less than 45% of testers have both the surname Barclay and a genetic relationship to the other Barclays of Scotland. On this basis then, it might be suggested the generally accepted position of genealogists that surnames indicate paternal descent, is correct rather less than half the time.

None of this should come as any great surprise to those familiar with traditional clan structure. Chiefly territorial units, clans were only loosely based upon either matrilineal or patrilineal kinship. It was not so-much as the descent from a fabled ancestor but the belief in this descent that fostered the clan and united its members. But it is a poor basis for modern genealogy and highlights how, with the advent of genetic and especially Y-DNA testing, we can now ascertain the truth of an individual's ancestry.

Clan Barclay International

Be in touch: leah@clanbarclayinternational.org
Visit our website: www.clanbarclayinternational.org
Explore the Barclay Surname Project at FTDNA:
https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/clanbarclayproject/about/background
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