

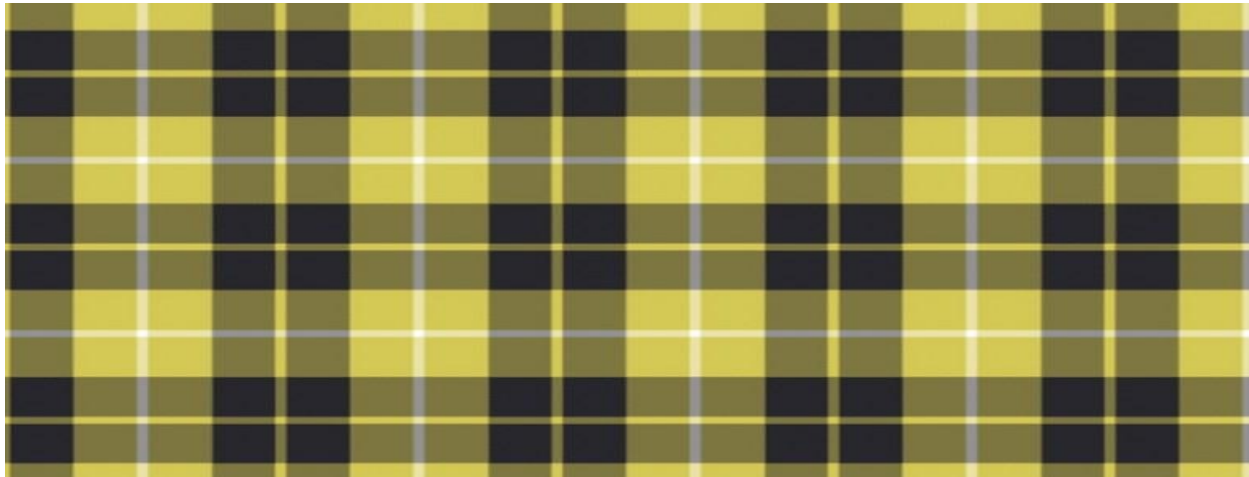


Clan Barclay International Newsletter
Aut Agere Aut Mori

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Barclay Broadside

June 2023



Greetings Clan Barclay!

The Captain Barclay Allardice Society Annual Lunch will be on Sunday, 3 September 2023, at the same venue as in 2022—the Tor Na Coille Hotel in Banchory, Scotland. For more information, contact Anne McDonald at a.mcdonald0775@googlemail.com.

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

- Forres Games: 8 July
- Dufftown Games: 29 July
- Aboyne Games: 5 August
- Ballater Games: 10 August
- Lonach Gathering: 26 August

See a video of 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 still on the market, 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.



A member of Clan Barclay, Chris Savory, recently contacted me. He is researching his 2x great-grandmother, Ann Barclay, born in 1817 in Dundee, Scotland, and would like to be in touch with anyone else who may be researching her. Chris relayed the following information regarding Ann Barclay: Ann's parents were Peter Barclay, a master mariner, and Janet Anderson from Dundee. Ann

had a brother, John Barclay (1824-1901), a master baker, who was born in Dundee. John moved to London in the mid-1820s and lived mostly in East London. Ann Barclay Savory was listed on the 1851 census living in a lunatic asylum, probably resulting from postpartum psychosis. She was a private patient in East London. She spent most of the rest of her life in workhouses and died in the Wandsworth Workhouse infirmary in 1899. Please contact Chris at savorychris77@gmail.com if you would like to share information about Ann Barclay.

Towie Barclay Castle is now listed on the open market. Even if you are uninterested in making the purchase, I encourage you to visit this [link](#) to learn more about the castle and view some stunning photos. For more information regarding the property, see the following links:

- [Towie Barclay Castle Property Questionnaire](#)
- [Single Survey Towie Barclay Castle](#)
- [Single Survey Garden Cottage](#)
- [Energy Performance Certificate Towie Barclay Castle](#)
- [Energy Performance Certificate Garden Cottage](#)



The Queen Mother's Visit to Towie Barclay Castle |
Also Pictured: Marc and Karen Ellington and
Daughters, Kirstie and Iona |
Courtesy: Karen Ellington

Yours aye,

Leah

Message from the the Maor

Maor/mu:r/- clan factor (doer/maker), supervisor, officer

By Leah Parker, MAEd

Introducing Bill Barclay, Drum Major of the Towie Pipe Band

In the last several editions, we have highlighted places and people important to Barclay history that I had the opportunity to visit in September 2022. In this edition we visit with Bill Barclay, Drum Major of the Towie Pipe Band. I have had the pleasure of meeting Bill a few times on visits to Scotland and have enjoyed watching him demonstrate his talent at the Drumtochty Games in 2019. If you have the opportunity to see him at the games, take it! You won't regret it. He is very good at what he does and is one of the nicest people you will ever meet!

Interview with Bill Barclay



1970s Photo When I Played with the Kintore Pipe Band | Courtesy: Bill Barclay



Leah: It may be surprising to learn that just less than 7% of current members of Clan Barclay International report that their country of residence is Scotland. You are one of the 7%! Where do you live in Scotland?

Bill: Well, being one of the 7% makes me a very proud and privileged person. At present I live in Strathdon

which is on the west side of Aberdeenshire, on the edge of the Cairngorms National Park. A corner of the country which has always been very dear to my wife Karen and myself. We live just off the A944 Aboyne Ballater and Tomintoul all within an 18 mile radius. Beautiful countryside, clean fresh air, water that hasn't been contaminated by chemicals and most importantly lovely friendly neighbours and community.

Leah: Tell us about where and how you grew up.

Bill: I grew up in the village of Oldmeldrum, not that far really from the ancestral pile of Towie Barclay. I was born in the cottage hospital at Fyvie. My father William Jones Barclay was a butcher and worked for the local shop. He was one of 3 brothers, the elder being George and the younger Alexander (Sandy). I have a brother Mike, who is also a member for these pages. I attended Meldrum Junior Secondary and quite honestly couldn't get away from it fast enough. I spent most of my youth on a farm or with the horses at nearby stables. I served my time as a joiner with a local firm Cameron & Greig. Long since closed their doors. After an accident in my youth I had to give up the joinery and look for further employment. This was another chapter in my life truck driving, for various companies locally and nationally. I married my wife Karen in 1980. That's 43 years of marital bliss. Never an argument but a lot of heated discussions.



Leah: You are the Drum Major for the Towie Pipe Band. How long have you had that role?

Bill: I have been Drum Major of the Towie and District Pipe Band for approximately 15 years. I attained this role because I was assisting the band for a few years prior to this and the opportunity came when the band were asked to go to Orkney for a week and required the services of a Drum Major. There goes the start of another Journey. We have competed in all the major championships and local competitions, coming 4th in Europe at one point. I have been 6th in the world twice in my career, North of Scotland Champion twice, and 5th in Europe. The Chap who takes all the videos, Dale from “Braemar Media,” calls me the Master of the Mace. Well maybe once upon a time but things change.



Bill Barclay at Dufftown Highland Games
In 2022 | Courtesy: Braemar Media

Leah: There is a lot going on with your uniform as the Drum Major. Can you tell us more about the details? What do the various symbols mean?

Bill: Hmm well the uniform is of military standing and was worn by the highland regiments long before us mere civvies. I will try to explain. The Baldric sash, that’s the blue one, has many parts but is mainly to show the accolades that the band or regiment had won in their lifetime. As a Drum Major you would have played all the drums at some point and made your way up to the rank of Drum Major (Drummy). The white cords are symbols of the cords that were used to tension the original drum skins. The drumsticks on the Baldric sash are just that, symbols of the rank. The chevrons are that of Drum Major and the drum badge above is the same.

Leah: Do you have favorite experiences with the Towie Pipe Band—favorite occasions where you performed or favorite people who you met?

Bill: I feel that all the people I have met over the years as a Drum Major and band player, have been favourite in one way or another. The world is too small a place for us to be individuals and one better or not than the other. I have had many experiences in my lifetime. I have been on TV challenge shows, as a Drum Major, where I was tasked with throwing my mace 70 times in 90 seconds. I did this with one second to spare. The people on the show and in the background were all brilliant. I travel round a number of games in a year and take part. I love this. Again, the people who organise and run these events are great friendly people, who give up their time for the benefit of others within their community. I have been associated with the pipe band world since I was about 9, so there's been a few years and a few games involved. I have a recollection of the man who took me into judging Drum Major contests, Tom Hare. His critique sheets were always so positive, I asked him why. "NO point in upsetting people," he said. So true...

Leah: You have a life outside of the Towie Pipe Band. What have you done in your professional life?

Bill: Well as already said. Joiner, security guard, Telex operator, Truck driver. Latterly as a civilian employee with Grampian Police. Life was always better on the other side of the fence. Not!!

Leah: I believe you make kilts now? Tell us more about that.

Bill: Been making and adjusting kilts since the late 1980's. This was quite a revelation to Karen when I laid a pipe band kilt on top of the bed and took a scissors to it and then remade it. My good friend and kilt mentor, Robert McBain, who was a Sgt Tailor Kiltmaker in the Gordon Highlanders, returned home and started the Keith Kilt School. I was very lucky that he allowed me to attend and hone my skills into what they are today. I have made kilts and sent them all over the world. Also for the rich and famous.



Bonny Grey Stewart Box Pleat Kilt and Flashes | Courtesy: Bill Barclay



Pleats In - Modern Forbes Kilt Being Made the Traditional Way, By Hand | Courtesy: Bill Barclay

Leah: Do you have any favorite hobbies or recreational activities?

Bill: Well this is a question.... Pipe bands have been my hobby for many years. I am currently Chairman of the RSPBA-Nos Branch and have been for the last 18 years. I have a collie dog who we attempt to train for the fly-ball competitions. Still trying. Myself and



Cheque Presentation by My Brother Mike and Myself to Local Care Home from the Rally Fund Raising We Run Annually | Courtesy: Bill Barclay

my brother Mike run and organise a rally each year in May where we have approximately 150 attend for the weekend, live music over 2 nights and a lot of alcohol and food. During the weekend we have various fundraising activities, and the proceeds go to the Royal British Legion North Scotland Veterans Welfare fund and to a local Old Kirk which has been given charitable status. I love to walk and have over the years been up and down many of our Scottish hills and glens. The wildlife around us has and still is a great fascination to me. They all seem to get on with one another. Why can't we?



Our Dab and Myself Up in the Hills, Was Bloomin Cold That Day | Courtesy: Bill Barclay

Leah: Who are your earliest known Barclay ancestors and their dates and places of birth and death?

Bill: My ancestors are really a mystery. I have to thank Tim Barclay, our genealogist and historian, for trying to shed light on the subject. My Grandfather George Barclay was illegitimate and I think his Granny was the one who chased the father, a George Barclay, crofter and carrier of that time. Well, that's on the birth certificate. I have mused about this for some time and really have to look up to those people for the dexterity they had to survive. On looking at various censuses from the late 1880s, it turns out that my great grandmother married another Barclay in the village of Oldmeldrum. This Barclay took on the role of father to my grandfather. Great Grandmother died of illness and the stepfather, and George my grandfather, then went to work at a local farm Mill of Balcairn (still there today). On the next census there was no mention of any of them but, turned out that my grandfather had shipped to Canada where he worked as a Bullman for the Wright Brothers. He had shipped calves at one point and looked after his

pennies. This information came from my father and uncles. He returned to Scotland in the early 1900's marrying my grandmother Elizabeth Jones Todd. He apparently wanted her to return to Canada with him but she refused and he returned to settle his business there. Returning to Oldmeldrum, he purchased the house that my grandmother lived in till she passed away in 1979. They, as I already said, had 3 sons, George, William and Alexander. Grandfather in 1937 went to a funeral with no hat and coat, rain came on and he got soaked through. This led to pneumonia and death. He was quite a character locally I believe. He worked on the farms during the spring through to the autumn and worked clearing roads in the winter. No mean feat in those days, with a shovel. Great life they had.



Our Mum |
Courtesy: Bill
Barclay

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?

Bill: This would be with my grandfather, such a character and hard worker. The conversation I would say would be around his life in the country and his travels abroad.

Leah: Where can we find information about you and Towie Pipe Band on social media or other resources?

Bill: Towie Pipe Band has a [Facebook](#) page and most of our outings etc are normally on there. Dale from Braemar Media also has quite a bit of information.



Drum Major Bill Barclay leads the Massed Pipe and Drums into the Games field for the official opening of the 2022 Aboyne Highland Games in Deeside, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. For the full video, see this [link](#). | Courtesy: Braemar Media

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

Bill: We may be only 7% living in Scotland, but I feel that we are all from the same stock, be it American, Canadian, Irish, English, Multi-National. Let's get together...



When Bill says, "Let's get together," he is genuine. My family and I had the pleasure of meeting him for the first time at the Drumtochty Games in 2019, and he was gracious enough to spend some time with us. Thanks Bill! | Courtesy: Leah Parker

A Few Notes from Leah:

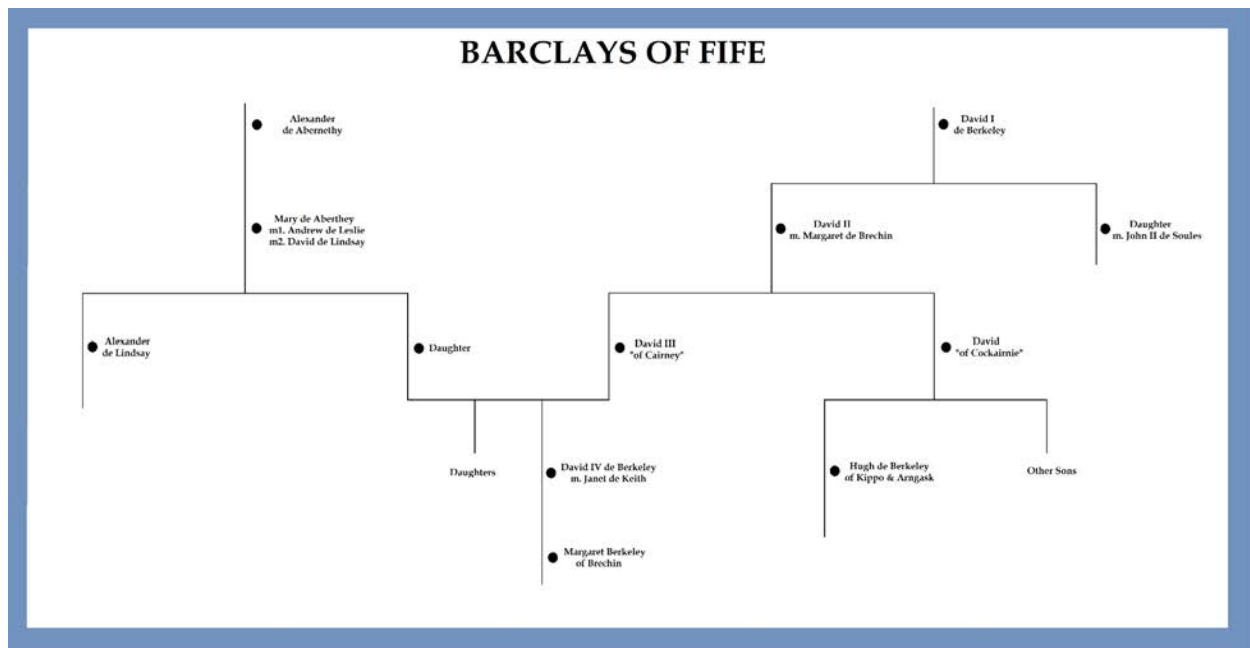
- If you would like to be in touch with Bill regarding a kilt, you may contact him by email at this address: wgb Barclay@gmail.com.
- Braemar Media was kind enough to give permission to feature their photos and videos of Bill Barclay. For more, visit their [Facebook](#) page or their [YouTube](#) channel. They feature photos and videos you will enjoy from all around Scotland, but search for Bill Barclay to see him specifically.
- See page 2 of this newsletter for a list of gatherings where Bill Barclay and the Towie Pipe Band will appear during Summer 2023.

Filidh's Feature

Filidh /fɪlɪ/ – clan genealogist, historian, storyteller, poet

By Tim Barclay

The Barclays of Fife: Part 3



Barclays of Fife Family Tree | Courtesy: Tim Barclay

While the foregoing analysis certainly suggests the presence of David III de Berkeley “of Cairnie” who was both the elder son of Margaret de Brechin and grandfather of Margaret de Berkeley of Brechin, the remaining evidence puts the matter beyond all doubt.

David III’s son, David IV, it will be recalled, issued a confirmation in October 1363 witnessed by Alexander de Lindsay and David de Berkeley of Cockairnie, “our uncles.” Alexander De Lindsay was the eldest son of Mary de Abernethy by her second marriage to David de Berkeley of Crawford about 1325. Both of Alexander’s parents had been married previously – David to an unknown woman who was the mother of James de Lindsay of Crawford, and Mary to Andrew de Leslie, by whom she had several children, including Norman and Walter de Leslie (Walter would later marry Euphame, Countess of Ross, great-granddaughter of Euphame de Berkeley and William, earl of Ross). Notably, Mary was co-heir with her sister Margaret to their father, Alexander de Abernethy, by which her Leslie sons inherited the Abernethy lordships of Ballinbreich, in Fife, and Cairney, in Perthshire. In 1358 Norman de Leslie received a royal grant of 40 marks per annum “during the ward of

Ballinbreich" and, between 1373 and 1381, Norman's son, Andrew de Leslie, granted Hugh de Berkeley of Kippo, son of David de Berkeley of Cockairnie and cousin to David IV de Berkeley of Brechin, an income of 24 marks per annum from his barony of Ballinbreich.

The only explanation for the foregoing is that David III de Berkeley married a Leslie daughter of Mary de Abernethy by which he became the lord of Cairney between 1342 and 1354. He then evidently died shortly before 1359, when his son, David IV, the nephew of Mary de Abernethy's son, Alexander de Lindsay, was still a minor. Judging by the payments received by the Leslies though, David IV attained his majority two years later and Ballinbreich was then secured to the Leslie line. However, probably because of a complex arrangement involving the Barclay inheritance at Lordscairnie and Brechin, to which David of Cockairnie and his heirs must have had a claim, David IV's cousin, Hugh de Berkeley of Kippo, was provided with an income from Ballinbreich in compensation by the Leslies, while David IV also granted Hugh the lands of Kinsleith belonging to Lordscairnie.

In addition to their son David IV, David III de Berkeley and his Leslie wife were evidently the parents of Jean de Berkeley who married Sir David Fleming of Biggar between 1351 and 1357, and were presumably also the parents of an otherwise mysterious Christine de Berkeley held by Inness genealogists to have married Sir Robert de Innes by dispensation in 1364 (in 1439 their grandson, Walter de Innes, "our cousin," received a grant from Alexander MacDonald of the Isles, earl of Ross, grandson of Walter de Leslie and Euphame Countess of Ross). It seems likely David III de Berkeley and his wife were also the parents of Janet, wife of Sir Andrew de Mercer, who was named "our cousin" by Euphame, Countess of Ross, in a confirmation of her husband's grant to Andrew in 1382. Following Andrew's death their son, Michael, was placed in wardship with Walter Stewart, husband of Margaret de Berkeley of Brechin.



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>

Join the conversation at our Facebook Group:

www.facebook.com/groups/clanbarclayinternational

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