



Clan Barclay International Newsletter
Aut Agere Aut Mori

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Barclay Broadside

July 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:

- 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 believe I will be able to provide an update this fall. 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.

The *Wall Street Journal* recently published an [article](#) and [video](#) about Towie Barclay Castle. You may not be able to access the article without a subscription or free registration, but the video is easy to view. Enjoy!



[Towie Barclay Castle: Wall Street Journal Video](#)

Yours aye,

Leah

Message from the the Maor

Maor/mu:r/- clan factor (doer/maker), supervisor, officer
By Leah Parker, MAEd

Chief Peter Barclay and Twin Sister Penny O'Rorke

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 Penny O'Rorke, twin sister of our Chief Peter Barclay. We had the pleasure and honor of meeting Penny, her husband, Phillip O'Rorke, and her son, Jeremy. We had such a lovely visit and enjoyed seeing many of her Barclay treasures.

Interview with Penny O'Rorke



A Visit With Penny and Family | L to R: Jeremy, Leah, Penny, and Phillip
| Courtesy: Leah Parker

Penny: Unfortunately Peter is not well and asked me to do this interview, luckily not too difficult as we are twins! We are both very proud of our Clan Barclay heritage and to be part of the world wide community that the Clan represents.

Leah: Would you provide brief biographies for you and Peter? Can you provide some special photos of you and your families?

Penny: We were born in Rome, Italy in 1938, and soon afterwards moved to Budapest, Hungary. When WW2 broke out we were sent back to the UK. We went to stay with cousins in Aberdeenshire until our parents came home, then we moved to England.



Favorite Photo: Chief Peter with the Queen Mother
| Courtesy: Penny O'Rorke



Lt Col Walter Patrick Barclay c 1918
| Courtesy: Penny O'Rorke

Leah: We featured an article about your father, Lieutenant Colonel Walter Patrick Barclay, in the November 2021 *Barclay Broadside*, and it highlighted his accomplished military career. (Find the [link](#) here.) You were so young, only five years old, when your father lost his life in Tunisia in World War II. What do you remember about him?

Penny: We only saw our father a few times when he was home on leave and have no real memories of him.

Leah: When your father died in 1943, where were you, Peter, and your mother living? Where did you go from there? What was life like for you as young children for the duration of World War II and afterwards?

Penny: We lived with my mother's family in the south of England where we saw and heard the planes crossing the English Channel in both directions. Several bombs landed near us, as did the V1s and V2s (unmanned rockets) in due course. I don't remember being frightened, it just seemed normal. And of course being told to get under the table (in case of broken glass) was quite exciting! There was food rationing but we were lucky living in the country as we kept chickens and grew vegetables.

Leah: Your second cousin, Theodore Bruce de Tollie Barclay, was the Chief of Clan Barclay when you were younger. Tell us about growing up as a Barclay in the Towie line. Was Peter aware that he would be the next Chief of Clan Barclay, and how did he feel about that?

Penny: No, we didn't know until Bruce got in touch with us after his recognition and matriculation. He lived in California and he and wife came to visit us. They were a lovely couple.



Chief Peter Charles Barclay
| Courtesy: Penny O'Rorke

Leah: Can you tell us about the process that involves Lord Lyon in being named the next Chief of Clan Barclay?

Penny: As Peter wasn't a direct descendant he went through the same process of recognition and matriculation that Bruce did. The Lord Lyon King of Arms at the time was Sir Thomas Innes of Learney.

Leah: Peter, like your father, completed his national service with the Black Watch. Was this a family tradition? Or was there some other reason Peter chose the Black Watch? Can you tell us a bit about his service?

Penny: Peter did his compulsory National Service with the Black Watch because of our father. As far as we know there was no family tradition. National Service was being phased out by then, and his was almost the last intake.

Leah: Tell us about your young adult life—your education, meeting your husband, becoming a parent, etc.

Penny: Peter went to Eton College and I went to a small school near home. We grew up in the fifties - now people say it was a boring decade, but it really wasn't! We saw the end of rationing, the growth of television, and wonderful music, art and fashion emerging after the war.

Leah: You married into another important clan, O'Rorke. Tell us about your husband and his clan's history and significance.

Penny: My husband is Philip, The O'Rorke, 32nd Chief of his Name. They were Kings of Breifne in Ireland until the 15th century.



Chief Peter Charles Barclay
| Courtesy: Penny O'Rorke

Leah: What have been some of the highlights Peter has experienced as Chief of Clan Barclay? Any favorite memories—duties he has fulfilled, places he has visited, or people he has met?

Penny: Peter has been very involved in his role as Chief of Clan Barclay. He has been an active member of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, always attending the annual meeting in Edinburgh. He has visited America and Canada for Highland Games. Philip and I went with him to the Williamsburg Games, a wonderful experience.

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

Penny: I think all our ancestors are interesting and part of who we are, so hard to pick an individual!

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?

Penny: Peter and I agree that it would have to be our father.

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

Penny: Peter has the Barclay Coat of Arms seal which he inherited from Bruce. He also has the crested sword that belonged to Captain John James Barclay who died in 1874.

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

Penny: To take this opportunity to send greetings and good wishes to all members of Clan Barclay!

A Note from Leah: I am honored to have met with Penny O'Rorke, twin sister of our Chief Peter Charles Barclay, her son Jeremy, and her husband Phillip while we visited London in September 2022. I appreciate their kind hospitality and the opportunity to share time together. It was a joy. I also want to express my gratitude to Penny for participating in this interview. Thank you, Penny!



Standard of Chief Peter Carles Barclay | Courtesy clanbarclayinternational.org

Filidh's Feature

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

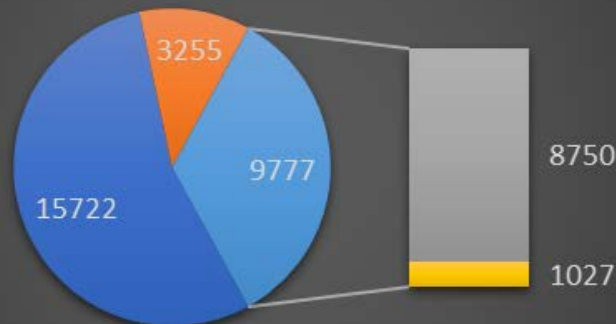
The Clan Barclay Research Project: July 2023

The seventeenth century is generally recognised as a period of great uncertainty for genealogical research. Surviving records of the general population at the time are few and those that do remain often lack the detail of later records. Given this, it is hardly surprising assumptions based on a combination of names, dates, locations, and associations, are frequently employed in an attempt to connect one's ancestors with a better recorded family of the same surname. Often, the logic of such assumptions is indisputable. However, as numerous examples can testify, even the most logical assumption can be entirely incorrect.

The Barclay family occupies a somewhat unique position in genealogical terms. As members of the lower nobility, records of individuals from various branches are found frequently throughout Scotland in the pre- and post-sixteenth century eras. Their arrival in England in 1066 from Normandy is well recorded, as is their migration to Scotland in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, all of which has been confirmed by DNA analysis. However, one result of such an ancient origin is the production of many cadet lineages, frequently confounding attempts by genealogists to distinguish between them. Often these are the same problems faced by the family historians of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries that produced what are now well-recognised as erroneous accounts.

Roger de Berkeley of Forgandenny and Crawfordjohn is indisputably the last common ancestor of the later medieval Barclay family in Scotland. As of July 2023, the number of identified confirmed and probable descendants of ascertained and likely descent from Roger totals 15,722. There are a further 3255 descendants confirmed by DNA analysis who are of uncertain descent. In addition, there are 8750 individuals of Scottish descent and 1027 individuals of Irish descent, who may also descend from Roger. In total then, there are currently 28,754 identified persons of interest in the Clan Barclay Research Project.

Clan Barclay Research Project July 2022



■ Confirmed, ascertained and likely descent ■ Confirmed, uncertain descent
■ Scottish, uncertain descent ■ Irish, uncertain descent

Number of Identified and Confirmed Probably Descendants of Ascertained and Likely Descent from Roger de Berkeley of Forgandenny and Crawfordjohn as of July 2023
| Courtesy: Tim Barcklay

Modern genealogists need modern tools if they are to overcome the present situation and problems outlined above. To this end, Clan Barclay encourages males descended from a patrilineal Barclay line to avail themselves of Y-DNA testing at [Family Tree DNA](#), to join the [Barclay Surname Project](#) at FTDNA, and to compare their results to those of other members at the FTDNA [Clan Barclay International DNA Database](#). Clan administrators with the assistance of individual members have developed this database to a point where descendants of each of the major Barclay houses of Kilbirnie-Ladyland, Perceton, Collairnie, Touch, Gartly, Mathers-Ury and Towie, may now be distinguished from one another with certainty. Even the most basic of Y-DNA testing allows for members to be accurately placed into one of two larger groups (i.e. the Barclays of Gartly and Mathers-Ury in one group and the Barclays from other houses in another), though testing at a 67 or 111 marker level is required to distinguish between the houses within each group. In some cases, it is necessary to undergo higher level SNP testing to uncover some of the remaining hidden relationships within each family.

The age of myths in the history of the Barclays is now finished. An outline of the relationships between the various Barclay houses as determined by current research is included above. Each member who contributes to the Clan's Y-DNA database provides information by which these relationships

may be further defined, and in return receives vital information about their own origins. Members who are yet to undergo Y-DNA testing are strongly encouraged to do so and to take their rightful place in the Clan.

Notes from Leah:

- For more information regarding Y-DNA testing and the Barclay Surname project, please see this [link](#). You can contact Leah with questions at leah@clanbarclayinternational.org.
- We just linked an article on our [Clan Barclay International](#) website from Know Your DNA. The article is titled “DNA Statistics (2023): Latest Facts on Genetic Testing,” and in it, you can learn about DNA testing, providers, common concerns, and results. Visit our website, see our page “[Types of DNA Testing](#),” and scroll to the bottom to find the article, or go directly to this [link](#).



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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