



Clan Barclay International Newsletter  
*Aut Agere Aut Mori*

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# Barclay Broadside

December 2023



# Message from the the Maor

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

To all our Barclay family and friends, I sincerely wish you a beautiful holiday season filled with special times with ones you love. I also wish you a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year.

Yours aye,

Leah

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## Barclay Connections - Mary Queen of Scots

By Leah Parker, MAEd

Lately, we have been exploring connections between Clan Barclay and people important to history, and now we turn our attention to [Mary Queen of Scots](#), who was born 14 December 1542. Happy birthday, Your Majesty!

There are several connections between Clan Barclay and Mary, the closest of which was Chritine, Christina, or Christiane Barclay (identified as Christine henceforth in this article), the mother of Mary's half-brother, James Stewart. More on Christine in a moment.

After considerations and negotiations over a series of prospective brides, [King James V](#) of Scotland first married [Madeleine of Valois](#) in 1537. At the conclusion of months of celebrations throughout her home country of France, the couple made their way to Scotland and arrived on 19 May 1537. Sadly, Madeleine died of tuberculosis just weeks later on 7 July 1537 at [Holyrood Palace](#) in the arms of [James V](#), leaving the king without a legitimate heir.



[Holyrood Palace](#), Edinburgh

In 1538, James V was married again, this time to [Mary of Guise](#). Together, they had three children, two of whom were sons who both died in April 1541. The eldest, also named James, was eleven months old, and his younger brother was only a few days old. Then on 8 December 1542, daughter Mary was born, just six days before James V died, likely from cholera or dysentery, at [Falkland Palace](#) in Fife, Scotland. The infant Mary succeeded her father to the throne and was [coronated](#) on 9 September 1543.



The Honours of Scotland were first used to crown the infant Mary Queen of Scots at [Stirling Castle](#) in 1543 and can now be viewed at [Edinburgh Castle](#).

While most of us are familiar with the part of the story told thus far, some may be unaware that King James V had at least eight illegitimate children with a variety of women before his first marriage. Three of those children were named James Stewart, including the son of Christine Barclay. We do not know the dates of birth or death for this James Stewart. [A History of the Barclay Family, Part II](#), reports on page 129 that Christiane Barclay was receiving payments from the Lord High Treasurer at the King's command in 1527 and 1531. Then two payments were made to the King's son with Mistress Barclay in 1533 and 1534. It is noted that James Stewart died without issue.

Christine Barclay was the daughter of George Barclay and Christian Stewart. George was the son of Patrick Barclay Gartly XVII and Elizabeth Arbuthnot. Patrick and Elizabeth had five children, three sons and two daughters. Besides his grandchildren by son George, Walter Barclay Gartly XVIII and Christine Barclay, Patrick and Elizabeth also had a grandson, William Barclay. William Barclay was the first cousin of Christine Barclay, mother of James Stewart, the half-brother of Mary Queen of Scots.



William Barclay was born in Aberdeenshire in 1546 and attended the University of Aberdeen. A promising young man, he served the court of Mary Queen of Scots at Holyrood Palace in the position of secretary to the queen. His portrait can be found adjacent to page 123 in [A History of the Barclay Family, Part II](#). The portrait is titled “WILLIAM BARCLAY Secretary to Mary Queen of Scots, 1566.” Note that he would have been 20 years old in 1566. Following the defeat of the queen’s forces at the Battle of Langside in 1568, William Barclay went on to relocate to France at the Court of

Lorraine, earn a degree of Doctor of Laws at the University of Bourges, become “Maître de Requêtes” to Charles, Duke of Lorraine, become Professor of Civil Law at University of Pont-à-Mousson, author some controversial works, marry a young lady of the court, Anne de Malleviller, and finally become Professor of Civil Law at the University of Angers, where he died in 1608. William and Anne had one son, John Barclay, a noted author, poet, and satirist. (For a fuller account of the lives of William and John Barclay, see [A History of the Barclay Family, Part II](#), pages 119-124.)

As mentioned above, the cause of Mary Queen of Scots met its defeat in 1568 at the [Battle of Langside](#). Among those faithful to Mary at that battle were the Barclays of Ladyland. According to Wikipedia, “In the Parish of Kilbirnie were three baronies, Kilbirnie, Glengarnock and Ladyland. The first Lairds of Ladyland were a cadet branch of the Barclays of Kilbirnie. Archibald, as a second son, is recorded as having the [Barony of Ladyland](#) bestowed upon him by his father, Sir Hugh Barclay. David Barclay of Ladyland was with Mary Queen of Scots at Hamilton in May 1568 and probably fought at the Battle of Langside where the Queen’s side lost, and she subsequently fled the realm.” After Langside, Mary sought shelter and protection in England, believing that her cousin [Queen Elizabeth I](#) would support her cause in Scotland. Instead,

Mary was kept prisoner in England and was executed at [Fotheringhay Castle](#) 19 years later in 1587 at the age of 44. Though she was buried in Peterborough Cathedral, her son James VI had her body exhumed and [entombed](#) in King Henry VII's Chapel in [Westminster Abbey](#).



Tomb of Mary Queen of Scots at Westminster Abbey | Courtesy: Leah Parker

In her relatively short life, Mary Queen of Scots experienced three difficult, if not tumultuous, marriages. Mary was sent to the French court at only five years old with an agreement in place that she would marry the French Dauphin, [Francis II](#). Francis' father, [King Henry II](#), once [commented](#) that “from the very first day they met, my son and she got on as well together as if they had known each other for a long time.” Mary was two years Francis' senior, and they were only 16 and 14 respectively when they were married in 1558. They produced no heir and Francis died in 1560 at the age of 16.



Francis II and Mary Queen of Scots



Darnley and Mary Queen of Scots

After the death of Francis, Mary eventually returned to Scotland and in 1565 married her cousin [Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley](#). Though a turbulent union, the future King James VI of Scotland and I of England was born to Mary and Darnley in 1566. After a brief and rocky marriage, the unpopular Lord Darnley was murdered in February 1567.

Suspicion regarding the murder quickly fell on [James Hepburn, 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Bothwell](#). To make matters worse, shortly after Darnley's murder, Mary and Bothwell left Edinburgh together and then married. Some assert that Bothwell kidnapped Mary and raped her to secure a marriage to him. Others speculate that Mary went willingly and that the rape allegations were fabricated so that her reputation was not soiled by her consent to marry to a man suspected of murdering her husband. The marriage split Scotland into two camps—those supporting Mary and those opposing her—and Mary enjoyed neither a happy marriage nor the wide support of the Scottish people after that.



James Hepburn, 4th Earl of Bothwell

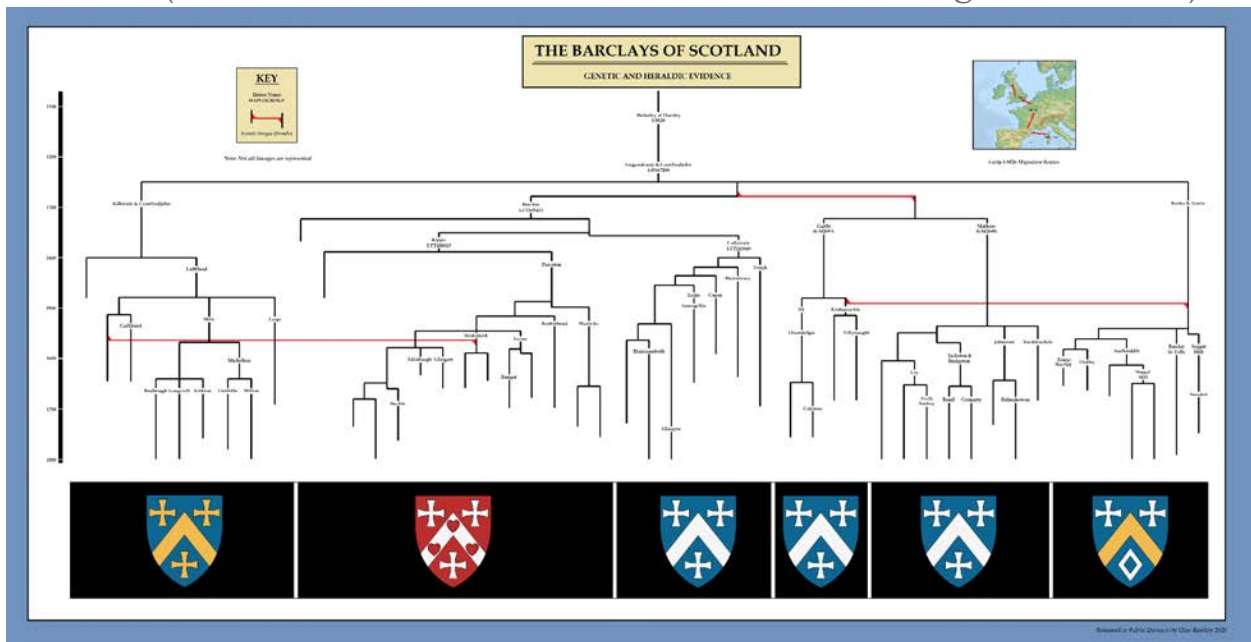
There is much more to say about the three husbands of Mary Queen of Scots and the political intrigues surrounding these marriages. Indeed, many books have recorded numerous detailed stories. For our purposes, we will take a closer look at Mary's third husband, James Hepburn, 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Bothwell. Bothwell's marriage to Mary was his third. First, he married [Anna Throndsen](#) by a handfasting ceremony while he was in Denmark. Though considered

legitimate under Dano-Norwegian law at the time, the marriage was viewed by some as invalid. Indeed, it seemed that even Hepburn treated his first marriage as invalid as he shortly thereafter married [Lady Jean Gordon](#) on 24 February 1566. It is reported that Mary Queen of Scots strongly approved of the marriage and even supplied cloth for Lady Jean's wedding gown. By 7 May 1567, Jean was granted a divorce on the grounds of Bothwell's alleged adultery with her maid, Bessie Crawford. Only eight days later, he married Mary Queen of Scots. Lady Jean Gordon, on the other hand, married secondly [Alexander Gordon, 12<sup>th</sup> Earl of Sutherland](#), at [Huntly Castle](#) on 13 December 1573. They went on to have seven (or by some accounts eight) children together, one of whom was [Sir Robert Gordon of Gordonstoun, 1<sup>st</sup> Baronet](#), who married Louisa Gordon. Together Sir Robert and Louisa had Lady Katherine Gordon, who married [Colonel David Barclay Ury I](#). David and Katherine were the parents of [Robert Barclay Ury II](#), author of the [Quaker Apology](#), John Barclay of Perth Amboy, a Proprietor of colonial East Jersey, David Barclay, Lucy Barclay, and Jean Barclay, who married [Sir Ewan Cameron of Lochiel](#). (More on Sir Ewan Cameron of Lochiel in a later issue.)



Huntly Castle | Courtesy: Leah Parker

In this very short account, we find connections between Mary Queen of Scots and the Barclays of Gartly, Ladyland, and Ury. Here you can see where these lines fall in our great family tree according to genetic and heraldic evidence. (You will need to zoom in to read the small writing on the chart.)



Barclay Lineages | Courtesy: Tim Barclay

We will see you in the new year with more Barclay history, connections, and news!





## Clan Barclay International

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