

SURNAMES

Before the 13th century, individuals were referred to by their first name and something 'extra' that was particular to them. For example, this 'extra' bit might refer to the colour of their hair ('black'), or a nickname ('crooked nose'), or their occupation ('baker', 'miller'), or by who their father was ('son of Malcolm'), or more rarely who their mother or brother was. If they were someone who travelled a lot (like a merchant) then they might be known by the place they came from (e.g. Andrew of Berwick).

These 'extra' names are not strictly speaking 'surnames' because they were only used to name an individual person, not a family. At some point in a family's history, however, an 'extra' would stick and be used by later generations. In this way it became a family name and therefore a surname.

In the 11th and 12th centuries, surnames were used only by high-status families, particularly in Ireland and Normandy rather than in Scotland. The earliest families with surnames in Scotland were either Normans (like Bruce, named after Brix in Normandy, where they originally came from) or high-status Gaelic families, like the earls of Fife, whose surname was Mac Duib (MacDuff), 'son of Dub' (Dub was the name of a king of Scots who ruled between 962 and 966).

Surnames became much more common in the 13th century, in Scotland as elsewhere. By the time of the Wars of Independence it was normal for lower-status people to have surnames, such as merchants, landholders, knights and churchmen. If you look at the 'Ragman Roll' resource, you will find very few without surnames (such as 'of Kirkpatrick' or 'MacAeda') among those who are listed there as giving oaths of loyalty to Edward I.

A person's surname in medieval Scotland was usually one of 3 different types:

1. a job (**occupational** name e.g. Cook, Smith)
2. father's first name (**patronymic** name e.g. Johnson, MacDonald)
3. a place (**locative** name e.g. of London, of Edinburgh)

OCCUPATIONAL SURNAMES

Here are some examples of **occupational** surnames (and what they meant) from Scotland between 1093 and 1314 (taken from the 'People of Medieval Scotland' database: see www.poms.ac.uk).

Apothecary: a shop-keeper selling medicines, spices and preserves.

Archer: a bowman.

Bachelor: a young knight.

Baker: a baker.

Barber: in the medieval period a barber was a surgeon as well as a hair-cutter.

Barker: a tanner of hides.

Baxter: a baker, sometimes just meaning a female baker.

Butcher: a meat butcher.

Butler: a servant in charge of the wine-cellar.

Carpenter: a carpenter.

Carter: a driver of a cart.
Chandler: a maker or seller of candles.
Cook: a cook.
Courier: a messenger.
Cryer: a court officer who makes public announcements.
Cutler: someone who makes, repairs, or sells knives and blades.
Cutter: a stone-cutter.
Dempster: a judge
Doorward: an usher, porter or door-keeper.
Dubber: a renovator of old clothes.
Fletcher: a maker or seller of arrows.
Fowler: a hunter of wild birds.
Fuller: a cloth worker.
Gardener: a gardener.
Glazier: a glass-maker.
Glover: a maker and seller of gloves.
Granger: a keeper of a grange or barn.
Harper: a musician playing the harp.
Hopper: a dancer, possibly one who dances at a fair or festival.
Hunter: an animal hunter.
Jagger: a salesman.
Janitor: a doorkeeper, porter, or gatekeeper.
Jouster: a jousting.
Larderer/Lardiner: the person in charge of the store of bacon and meat.
Mercer: a merchant of textiles and fabrics, especially silk, velvet and other expensive materials.
Merchant: a merchant or trader.
Miller: someone who works in a mill.
Napier: the keeper of the table linens.
Page: a low-level male servant.
Parker: a park-keeper.
Plumber: one who works with lead.
Porter: a keeper of the door or gate.
Rhymer: a poet.
Sealer: a seal-maker.
Shearman: a man who cut woollen cloth.
Shepherd: a sheep shepherd.
Soutar: a shoemaker or cobbler.
Skinner: a dealer in animal skins.
Smith: a metal-worker.
Steward: a household official in charge of the household servants and the table.
Surgeon: a surgeon.
Tailor: a maker of clothes.
Toller: a tax collector.
Vintner: a wine-merchant.
Violer: a player of the viol; a fiddler.
Waferer: a maker and seller of wafers or thin cakes, including some bread.
Weaver: a weaver.
Wright: a carpenter or joiner.

PATRONYMIC SURNAMES

Patronymic names ('son of') could take different forms, depending on the language used for 'son'. This could be English 'son' (e.g. 'Davidson' is 'David's son') or French 'fils' or 'fitz' (e.g. FitzAlan is 'Alan's son'), or Gaelic 'mac'. Here are a few modern surnames with 'mac', or which were originally with 'mac', that are also found in medieval Scotland. If the family is known in the 13th century, the area they lived in is noted.

<u>Modern surname</u>	<u>Gaelic surname</u>	<u>Medieval Gaelic form</u>	<u>Area</u>
Carmichael	MacGhilleMhìcheil	Mac Gilla Mícheil	
Galbraith	Mac a' Bhreatnaich	Mac in Bretnaich	<i>Lennox</i>
Kennedy	MacCinneidich	Mac Ceinnéitig	<i>Carrick</i>
Lamont	MacLaomuinn	Mac Lagmuinn	<i>Cowal</i>
Livingstone	MacDhunleibhe	Mac Donn Sléibe	
MacAulay	MacAmhlaidh	Mac Amlaíb	<i>Lennox</i>
MacDonald	MacDhòmhnaill	Mac Domnaill	<i>Islay</i>
MacDougall	MacDhùghaill	Mac Dubgaill	<i>Lorn</i>
MacDowell	MacDhùghaill	Mac Dubgaill	<i>Galloway</i>
MacDuff	MacDhuibh	Mac Duib	<i>Fife</i>
Macinlay	Mac Fhionnlaigh	Mac Finnlaech	
MacInnes	MacAonghais	Mac Oengusa	
MacKay	MacAoidh	Mac Aeda	
Mackerracher	MacFhearchair	Mac Ferchair	
MacLachlan	MacLachlainn	Mac Lachlainn	<i>Cowal</i>
MacLeod	MacLeòid	Mac Léoit	<i>Angus</i>
MacNaughton	MacNeachdainn	Mac Nechtáin	<i>Mid-Argyll</i>
MacQuarrie	MacGuaire	Mac Guaire	
MacSween	MacShuibhne	Mac Suibne	<i>Knapdale</i>

LOCATIVE SURNAMES

Many noble families adopted particular **locative** surnames to emphasise their status. Often these places would be in Normandy or elsewhere in France. They could also be from places in Scotland and England. Here are a few examples.

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Place</u>
Balliol	Bailleul (Picardy, France)
Barclay	Berkley (Somerset, England)
Bruce	Brix (Normandy)
Douglas	Douglas (Lanarkshire)
Hay	La Hay-Hue (Normandy)
Lamberton	Lamberton (Berwickshire)
Lindsay	Lindsey (Lincolnshire, England)
Lundie	Lundie (Angus)
Menzies	Mesnières (Normandy)
Mowat	Mold (Flintshire, Wales)
Murray	Moray (northern Scotland)
Soules	Soules (Normandy)