

## Clan/Family Histories

### - Paterson

The surname Paterson is derived from "Son of the devotee of Patrick" ie St Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. Patrick initially became a popular first name. Later, as surnames started to be used, there was a Clan Pheadirean (the Gaelic name is MacPhadraig) on the northern shores of Loch Fyne, [Argyllshire](#) in the 13th century. The name spread across the Lowlands of Scotland and nowadays Paterson/Patterson is amongst the 20 most frequently found surnames in Scotland. Other variants on the name include Peterson and Patison.

In the 15th century, William Paterson became Provost (mayor) of [Aberdeen](#) and in the 16th century Fyndlay Patersoun leased land from the Abbey of Cupar in [Angus](#). The most famous bearer of the name was [William Paterson](#), a Dumfriesshire farmer's son, who founded the [Bank of England](#) in 1694 and, later, promoted the disastrous Darien Scheme in Panama which collapsed in 1700.

During the 1745 Jacobite Uprising, Sir Hugh Paterson of Bannockburn entertained [Prince Charles Edward Stuart](#) in January 1746. Sir Hugh's niece, Clementine Paterson, became the Prince's mistress and bore him a daughter in France in 1753.

[Castle Huntly](#) in Perthshire belonged to a Paterson family from 1777 to 1948.

The Paterson clan motto is "Huc tendimus omnes" which means "We all strive for this".

Paterson was the 18th most frequent surname at the [General Register Office](#) in 1995