

Clan/Family Histories - Stewart/Stuart



The most famous "occupational" name in Scotland, the name is derived from the office of steward (from Old English "stig" meaning house and "weard" meaning keeper). A Norman knight, William Fitz Alain became hereditary Great Steward of Scotland during the reign of [King David I](#)



and was given estates in [Renfrewshire](#) and East Lothian.. His descendants, using the name Stewart, obtained lands in Kintyre, Arran, Cowal and Bute. Other branches of the family became established in [Strathearn](#) and Atholl in Perthshire, Appin in [Argyll](#) and also in [Strathspey](#).

Walter, the 6th High Steward married Marjory, daughter of [Robert the Bruce](#). Bruce's own son, [King David II](#) died childless and Bruce's grandson, Robert Stewart, through Marjory, became King Robert II in 1371, thus starting the [Stewart Dynasty](#) which lasted until the death of [Queen Anne](#) in 1714. The royal male line of Stewarts probably ended with the death of [Bonnie Prince Charlie](#) (though illegitimate descendants continued to the 20th century). Currently, Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, is High Steward of Scotland as the female-line descendant of Walter Fitz Alan.

The "Stuart" spelling arose because there was no letter "w" in the French language and [Mary Queen of Scots](#), in particular, became Mary Stuart, following her marriage to the [Dauphin of France](#), later King Francis II.

The Stewart clan motto is "Virescit vulnere virtus" which means "Courage grows strong at a wound".

Source: <http://www.rampantscotland.com/clans/blclanstewart.htm>