de Bary-Barry Origins
Dating back to 1020
A brief early history of the de Bary-Barry origins compiled by Natasha Barry

Barri Castle

The de Bary-Barry family originally hails from the French speaking village of Barri (now Barry) in the Hainaut which was previously Norman territory. Today Barry is incorporated into the municipality of Tournai in Belgium.

Barri Castle was located in the forest of Barri. Before 863 it would appear that the governing authority in the area was the "forestier", thus the "controller" of the forests. Unsubstantiated legend has it that this post was held successively by Baudouin's ancestors. In 863 the countship of Flanders was granted to Baudouin I by Charles II "le Chauve" King of the West Franks whose daughter he had abducted.

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André de Barry of Antwerp, Belgium started an excavation club and corresponded with the late E.G.H. (Ted) Barry of South African from 1979 to 1992 keeping him up to date with the archeological digs that he was doing to find ‘our’ castle. In 1980 they uncovered a large foundation wall and three wells. In 1987 he wrote that, “Now we found deep stone foundations (and very large) in the ground with several subterranean passages and gangways, etc”.

Brice de Barry Knight in the 3rd Crusade (1189—1192) displaying the ancient family Coat of Arms on his wooden shield typically faced with leather or parchment at the time.
The long tunic with Magyar sleeves that he is wearing over his mail coat was sometimes worn by the wealthier knights, the chin defense was controversial and the conical tip of his helmet ahead of his time.

The full heraldic achievement of Albert de Bary 1877
The specialist that was called in determined that the foundation walls were of Roman origin built out of the very hard local stone called, Pierre de Tournay. The village of Barri would have been on the northernmost outpost of the Roman Empire’s occupation of Gaul. Ted speculated that, “It would appear that the Barry Castle was either built on existing Roman foundations or else the existing Roman foundations were dismantled so as to provide foundation stones for Barry buildings to a different layout’.

All the archeological information lodged in the Tournay Archives was transferred to the Belgian Archives in Brussels and is now under the control of state experts.

**Dating back to 1020**

Otho (Odon) living in the village of Barri in 1020 is the earliest recorded Barri (de Bary or Barry).

Brice (Brisius) de Bary and Geraldus de Bary also came from Barri castle.

Otho had at least two sons, Walter de Bary and William de Bary, who took part in the Norman invasion of England in 1066 at Hastings under William the Duke of Normandy. Whilst William de Bary participated in the conquest his brother Walter was appointed custodian of Windsor Castle.

In 1989 John Lizza presented a paper on behalf of the late Marquette de Bary stating that Giraldus Cambrensis (thus the rest of the family) descends on both his paternal and maternal lines from this Otho.

**Gerald of Wales - Sylvester Giraldus Cambrensis**

He was called the ‘father’ of popular literature as he broke away from the pompous writing style of his day. As a Catholic Priest he wrote in Latin instead of French, the court language of his time, and this together with the general illiteracy of the time doomed his works to relative obscurity.

Fortunately several of his works, some addressed to King Henry 11 and others to his son John, ‘the noble and illustrious King of England, lord of Ireland and duke of Normandy and Aquitaine, and count of Anjou,’ have been preserved in the British museum.
Princess Nest of Deheubarth - ‘Helen of Wales’

The beautiful and clever Princess Nest ferch Rhys (Nesta), born about 1085, was the daughter of Rhys ap Tewdwr (Rhys ap Tudor Mawr - ‘the Great’) born 1045, the last king of the Deheubarth in South Wales and his wife Gwladys born 1060, daughter of Prince Rhiwallon Powys of North Wales.

William the Conqueror had made alliances with the tribal chiefs of Wales including Nest’s father and established an informal frontier along the line of Offa’s Dyke with Norman barons in control of the land.

William died in 1087 and his successor, William Rufus sent the Marcher barons in to subdue the Britons. In 1093 Nest’s father was killed in a battle outside Brecon and she was taken as a valuable hostage, others were captured and executed and Nest’s brother Gruffydd, fled to Ireland. In London the young Nest caught the eye of King Henry I illustrated above and bore him a son, Henry FitzHenry (b. circa 1103, d. circa 1157)

In a political move King Henry decided to marry her to one of his knights, Gerald de Windsor a grandson of Otho de Barri. By all accounts it was a relatively happy marriage and Nest bore Gerald five children:

1. William FitzGerald (died 1173)
2. Maurice FitzGerald, Lord of Llansteffan (died 1 September 1177)
3. David FitzGerald, Archdeacon of Cardigan and Bishop of St David’s
4. Angharad de Windsor, who married William de Barry, the builder of Manorbier Castle - the original seat of the Anglo-Norman de Barry family.
5. A daughter (possibly Gwladys), the mother of Milo de Cogan

Gerald built a new castle at Carew and then another at Cilgerran. It was possibly at the latter that Nest’s second cousin and rebel Owain ap Cadwgan, son of Cadwgan ap Bleddyn, prince of Powys and his men set fire and attacked the castle in 1109. Tradition has it that Nest suspected treason and helped her husband escape down the privy. The Brut tells us that “Owain subsequently broke into the castle, raped Nest and abducted her along with Gerald’s children and much of his treasure”. Nest persuaded him to return the children to Gerald but her good looks and abduction led to a mini civil war earning her the nicknamed ‘Helen of Wales’. Nest was finally returned to her husband but myth has it not before bearing Owain two sons, Llywelyn and Einion. After Gerald’s death, Nest took as a lover the Sheriff of Pembroke, a Flemish settler named William Hait with whom she is rumoured to have had a child, also called William. Not happy with this her older sons married her off to Stephen, the constable of Cardigan, and she bore him a son, Robert Fitz-Stephen who died in 1182.

Gerald of Windsor

Otho de Barri’s son, Walter fitz-Otho the Constable of Winsor Castle and holders of 22 estates from the king as tenant-in-chief, married Beatrice. Their sons chose the name de Windsor as their surname from the estates on which they were born and raised.

Gerald de Windsor was engaged in military matters and in 1095 he led an expedition against the Welsh in the South on the borders of what is now Pembrokeshire. Gerald was also the first Geraldine to set foot in Ireland when he went to Ireland to secure for his lord, Arnulf Montgomery, the hand of the daughter of King Murrough in marriage in 1100. Two year later, Arnulf was deprived of his estates and exiled for joining in a rebellion against the King. Gerald was granted custody of Pembroke Castle the most important fortress in South Wales by his friend King Henry I and subsequently appointed president of the County of Pembrokeshire. Gerald was also placed in charge of the Norman forces fighting the Welsh. Ruling her father’s lands, his marriage to Princess Nest lent him legitimacy in the eyes of his subjects.

Nest’s abduction incensed not only her husband and King Henry but the Norman lords as well. Owain’s Welsh enemies were bribed to attack him and his father, thus starting a minor civil war with Gerald at the forefront and Welsh prince fighting against Welsh prince. Owain and his father fled to Ireland, and Nest was returned to Gerald.

On the orders of King Henry suppos edly to help him defeat one of the strongest Welsh rebel princes, Owain returned from Ireland. Possibly betrayed, Owain was ambushed by a band of Flemish led by Gerald and legend has it that he was killed by an arrow through the heart shot by the hand of Gerald himself.
Pedigree of the de Bary-Barry’s
are those of Giraldus Cambrensis

Geraldus de Barri or Barry; Girald de Bary, and on occasion Gerald of Wales was born in Manorbier, Pembrokeshire, Wales, in about 1146. He was the son of a Norman castellan, William de Barri and Angharad, the daughter of the Welsh princess Nesta of Deheubarth. He was thus the nephew of Maurice Fitzgerald and related to the leading Welsh-Norman families and to the princely families of South Wales. King Henry II’s justiciar in Wales, the powerful Lord Rhys ap Gruffydd, Prince of Deheubarth was his mother’s cousin. Gerald of Windsor, his maternal grandfather, was the progenitor of one of the most powerful of the Welsh Marcher dynasties, the Fitzgeralds or Geraldines. Coupled to Gerald’s powerful family were many of the original Norman conquerors of Ireland that fought alongside Strongbow.

Gerald nearly achieved his life long ambition to emulate his uncle David Fitzgerald as the Bishop of the holy see of St. David’s. In 1198 the Bishop Peter de Leia died and the canons of the cathedral elected Gerald as his successor. However, his former student John became the King of England in the following year and refused to sanction the appointment. Gerald’s illustrious family connections with the Marcher barons and the Welsh princes worked against him. Gerald reasoned that the king and the archbishop of Canterbury feared he would use his family connections to assert Welsh ecclesiastical independence from England. Not willing to accept defeat he petitioned the papal court but his case was eventually denied. He spent his remaining days writing and revising his previous works.
IRELAND

Diarmaid Mac Murchada (Dermot MacMurragh), the ousted King of Leinster, requested military intervention from newly crowned King Henry 11 of England. Not willing to extend himself, Henry 11 gave Mac Murchada permission to privately recruit soldiers. He recruited Richard de Clare, the Earl of Pembroke, also known as Strongbow as well as a handful of Anglo-Norman barons including Robert FitzStephen, Maurice FitzGerald, Hervey de Mont Maurice, Reymond le Grosse and Milo de Cogan.

In May 1169, the Anglo-Norman soldiers and knights promised land and influence landed in Wexford, Ireland to help him successfully regain his kingdom from King Rory O’Connor of Connacht and the Dubliners. Giraldus’ brother Robert de Barry was granted Lismore Castle photo above but died defending it in 1185.

Thus Gerald FitzWalter of Windsor became the common ancestor of the various de Barry branches, as well as of the FitzGerald and FitzMaurice families in Ireland. Located mainly in County Cork the Barry family became so powerful that they were called “The Great Barrys” or Barry mor. The chief of this family held the titles Lord of Olethan with Philip de Barry became the 1st Lord of Olethan, Viscount of Buttevant and in 1627 advanced to the dignity of Earl of Barrymore. Also to be found are Barry Roe (Red Barry), Barry Og (Younger Barry), and variants like Barry Bhán/Barrivane (White Barry) and Barry Laidir (Strong Barry) or compound names such as the Mac James (FitzJames Barrys), the MacRobinson/MacRobston Barrys, the MacAdam Barrys and the Smith Barrys. Some Barry families changed their name to Berry for political, religious or other reasons.

However, some Barrys are not Anglo-Norman or Flemish in origin but descended from the native Irish O’Beare or O’Beargha families of Mayo and Limerick.

The main branches of the FitzGerald (Fitz meaning ‘son of’) family are:

- the FitzGerals of Kildare (Earls of Kildare from 1316, later Marquesses of Kildare and from 1766 Dukes of Leinster and Premier Peers of Ireland). Its current head is Maurice FitzGerald, 9th Duke of Leinster.
- the FitzGerals of Desmond (Barons Desmond, later Earls of Desmond)
One of the reasons that Henry VIII decided to re-conquer Ireland was that the FitzGerald dynasty of Kildare had effectively become the rulers of Ireland with Thomas FitzGerald openly rebelling against the crown in 1535. Henry VIII had broken with Rome in 1534 but the majority of the descendants of the Anglo-Norman settlers and the Irish did not accept the Protestant Reformation.

The Catholics become subservient to English and Scottish planter Protestant immigrants which led to the Irish Rebellion that was suppressed by Oliver Cromwell in 1641. Thereafter followed a time of confused loyalties, anger and violence.

Garrett Barry, a younger son from County Cork, who had previously left Ireland to join the Spanish Army of Flanders had returned home and led the Irish Confederate Army as General and took Limerick. However, the superior weapons and numbers (1500 to 500) of the English force commanded by a Protestant Irishman, Murrough O’Brien, Baron of Inchiquin defeated them in the Battle of Liscarroll fought in County Cork in July 1642.

Cromwell returned to subdue the rebels in 1649. Many landowners and the majority of the Catholics including some of the Barry’s lost their property. It is estimated that just under half a million people (a third of the population) died from war or famine, emigrated or were deported.

In 1695 they (and Protestant dissenters) were disenfranchised and their religious, political and economic rights restricted by new even stricter penal laws.

Many descendants of the Anglo-Norman Barry’s fled Ireland in the 16th and some in the 17th century. Some of those that fled to France adopted the surname DuBarry.