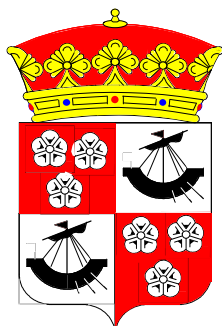


## Abercorn

### *Description of Arms :*



Quarterly : 1st and 4th gules, three cinque foils pierced ermine, *Hamilton* ; 2nd and 3rd argent, an ancient ship or lymphad, with one mast, the sails furling and oars out sable, *Arran*.

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**Principle Title :** Duke of Abercorn.

**Creation :** Ireland, 1868.

**Subsidiary Titles :** Marquis of Hamilton (1868), Marquis of Abercorn (1790), etc ..., Duke of Châtelherault (1548).

**Family Name :** Hamilton.

**Family History :** Claud Hamilton, born 1543, was the fourth son of James, first Duke of Châtelherault ( in France ) and second Earl of Arran, a Scottish peerage. Claud was created Lord Paisley in 1578 and died three years later. His son was created Lord Abercorn in 1603 and Earl in 1606, together with the lordships of Paisley, Hamilton,, Mountcastell and Kilpatrick ( all in the peerage of Scotland ). He left two sons, James the second Earl and Claud. James petitioned Charles I to transfer one of his titles, the barony of Strabane, to his younger brother. However, James died, leaving one son who died without heirs, so the remainder of his titles devolved onto Claud. This gentleman suffered the indignity, in 1691, of having all his titles forfeited and he was outlawed. His brother, the fifth Earl, obtained a reversal of this attainder. Exhausted by this, he died in 1701, without issue. The titles then went to the next closest heir; issue of the fourth son of the 1st Earl, who had some of them "refreshed". He had already been created a baronet, now he received the Viscounty of Strabane, in the peerage of Ireland.

From then on, the succession followed a more regular pattern. In 1790, the 9th Earl, was raised to the rank of Marquis of Abercorn, peerage of Great Britain. In due course, the 2nd Marquis who was prominent in political and diplomatic affairs established his claim to the ancient Dukedom of Chatelherault - which had been in abeyance since 1651. His right was not contested but Napoleon III then complicated matters by granting the same duchy to a remote cousin, the 12th Duke of Hamilton. This same marquis was raised, himself, to Marquis of Hamilton and Duke of Abercorn, in 1868, in the peerage of Ireland.

This family is an excellent example of slow progression, over the centuries, despite many setbacks on the way. No single member has been as dazzlingly prominent as, say, the Duke of Wellington ; but each has played his part in the family's advance.

# Abercorn

James Hamilton (?-1479), 1st Lord of Hamilton  
= (1474) Mary (?-1488), daughter of James II, King of Scotland

James (?-1617/1618),  
1st Earl of Abercorn (1606), 2nd Duke of Chatelherault

James (1685-1744),  
7th Earl

James (1712-1789),  
8th Earl

John-James (1756-1818),  
9th Earl, 1st Marquis of Abercorn (1790)

1 daughter  
(1862)

James James (1811-1885), 1st Duke of Abercorn (1868), re-established claim to Dukedom of Chatelherault

James, 2nd Duke of Abercorn (1838-1913)  
= Mary Anna Curzon, daughter of 1st Earl Howe

5 daughters  
and 4 sons

James Albert Edward (1869-1953), 3rd Duke of Abercorn  
= (1894) Rosalind Cecilia Caroline Bingham (?-1958), daughter of 4th Earl of Lucan

Mary Cecilia  
(1896-1977)

Katharine  
(1900-1938)

James Edward (1904-1979), 4th Duke of Abercorn  
= (1928) Mary Crichton, sister of 5th Earl of Erne

Moyra Kathleen  
(1930-)

JAMES (1934-), 5th Duke of Abercorn  
= Alexandra Anastasia Phillips

Lord CLAUD  
(1939-)

JAMES HAROLD CHARLES (1969-),  
Marquis of Hamilton

Sophia Alexandra  
(1973-)