



FYVIE CASTLE

THE MOST  
DISTINGUISHED  
SURNAME  
CRUICKSHANK

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## ANCIENT HISTORY

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The ancestors of the Cruickshank family name are believed to be descended from the Pictish race. Legend, as related by noted historians Bede and O'Hart described this ancient founding race, which settled in North-Eastern Scotland, as coming originally from the shores of Brittany about the 5th century B.C. Migrating, they sailed northward to Ireland where the ancient monarchies of Ireland refused them permission to land and settle, but they were directed by those Kings to the eastern part of Scotland on the condition that all the Pictish Kings marry an Irish Princess, thus assuring the Irish of a colony which would always be a part of the Irish royal court. According to the Venerable Bede, England's oldest historian born in 673 A.D., known as the Father of English History, this Pictish settlement established a matriarchal hierarchy which was unique in the annals of British history.

One of the first Pictish Kings, as recorded in official, documented history, was Nechtan, about 724 A.D., although there had been many who had fought valiantly at Hadrian's Wall against the Roman invasion many centuries before. Roman history shows these unconquerable northern tribes as being the main reason for their vacating the British Isles in the 4th century. Rivals of the Picts to the west, were the Dalriadans or the Highlanders of the Western Isles, who were their constant foes in the battle for supremacy for power over all Scotland, known then as Alba, or Caledonia.

Nechtán was finally expelled from Pictland by Alpin, half Dalriadan, half Pict, the result of a political marriage. Alpin's son, Kenneth MacAlpine, son of Alpin, became the first historically recorded King of Scotland as we know it today. The Picts, compressed by the northern invasion of the Orcadian Vikings who penetrated as far south as Caithness, sometimes even to Edinburgh, were left with a territory on the eastern coast of Scotland from Inverness, south to Edinburgh.

From examining such documents as the Inquisitio, 1120 A.D., the Exchequer Rolls of Scotland, The Ragman Rolls, the Chronicles of the Picts and Scots; as well as and various other cartularies of parishes in Scotland, we have determined that the Cruickshank name was first found Cruickshank in Kincardineshire (Gaelic: A' Mhaoirne), a former county on the northeast coast of the Grampian region of Scotland, and part of the Aberdeenshire Council Area since 1996, where they held a family seat from very ancient times.

## SPELLING VARIATIONS

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The surname Cruickshank was found in many different forms. In some cases the earliest spelling of the name found in the archives researched bears little resemblance to the one now used, but these variations come from the same roots, and for some, genealogical connections have been established. The written form of the surname Cruickshank occurred in many references, and from time to time the surname was spelled Cruickshank, Cruikshank, Crookshank, Crookshanks and Cruickshanks, and some of these versions are still used today. These changes in spelling frequently occurred, even between father and son. For instance, in one graveyard in lowland Scotland there lies a father and eight sons, no two spellings on the headstones match each other. Preferences for spelling variations usually either came from a division of the family, or religious reasons, or sometimes patriotic reasons. Scribes and church people frequently selected their own version of what they thought the spelling should be.

## EARLY HISTORY

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The family name Cruickshank emerged as that of a Scottish Clan or family in this territory. More specifically they developed from their original territories of Kincardine. The name was first found in the county of Kincardine, in Scotland, where the river Cruick flows, and it is thought that the name was derived from a tribe which dwelt on the banks of the Cruick where the river bends, hence, Cruickshanks. The name has been misspelled into a number of versions since ancient times, and changes have even been recorded from father to son. From the parish of Fearn, this early clan settled where the Cruick meets the North Esk, near the Kirk (Church) of Stracathro. By the year 1296 the Clan had moved southward to Haddingtonshire. John Crookshanks rendered homage to King Edward 1st of England in 1296, on his brief conquest of Scotland. The family name flourished for the next two or three centuries, and branched south from Aberdeen to Arbroath, and Edinburgh. They owned the mill at Tybardy, and land in Aberdeen, Arbroath, Murthlie, and John Cruickshank was a tailor. Amos Cruickshank laid the foundations of a great herd of cattle which would be known the world over.

## EARLY NOTABLES

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Notable amongst the Clan at this time was John Crookshanks of Haddington.

## THE GREAT MIGRATION

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The migration or banishment to the New World also continued, some went voluntarily from Ireland, but most came directly from Scotland, their home territories. Some also moved to the European continent. They sailed to the New World across the stormy Atlantic aboard the small sailing ships known as the "White Sails," ships such as the Hector, the Rambler or the Dove. These overcrowded ships, which could sometimes spend two months at sea, were racked with disease, frequently landing with only 60 percent of their original passenger lists left alive.

## SETTLERS

- John Cruickshank who settled in Newport Rhode Island in 1823
- Margaret Cruickshank, aged 30, arrived in Port Nicholson aboard the ship "Lady Nugent" in 1841
- James Cruickshank, aged 26, arrived in Nelson aboard the ship "Phoebe Dunbar" in 1841/1850
- Christina Cruickshank, aged 20, arrived in Nelson aboard the ship "Phoebe Dunbar" in 1841/1850
- James Cruickshank, aged 26, arrived in Nelson aboard the ship "Phoebe Dunbar" in 1850
- Christina Cruickshank, aged 20, arrived in Nelson aboard the ship "Phoebe Dunbar" in 1850
- Jane Cruickshank, aged 22, arrived in Auckland, New Zealand aboard the ship "Maori" in 1864
- George Cruickshank, aged 23, a labourer, arrived in Auckland, New Zealand aboard the ship "Resolute" in 1865

As well as 25 more in the Appendix.

## CURRENT NOTABLES

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The areas of settlement within North America began to change. During the American War of Independence, allegiances were divided. While most remained American, others became United Empire Loyalists and moved north to Canada. From the original ports of entry, the immigrants began to move westward, as opportunities for land became available.

- Anne R. Cruickshank, American Republican politician, Alternate Delegate to Republican National Convention from Massachusetts, 1972

- Gordon S. Cruickshank, American politician, Representative from Virginia 11th District, 1994
- Mabel Cruickshank, American Democrat politician, Delegate to Democratic National Convention from Montana, 1932, 1936, 1940, 1944, 1948
- George Cruickshank (1792-1878) English caricaturist and illustrator
- George Cruickshank (1853-1904) Australian politician
- Dame Joanna Cruickshank CBE (1875-1958) British founder of the RAF Nursing Service in November 1918
- Helen Burness Cruickshank (1886-1975) Scottish poet and suffragette
- Private Robert Edward Cruickshank (1888-1961) Canadian soldier awarded the Victoria Cross for actions during WW I
- Robert "Bobby" Allan Cruickshank (1894-1975) Scottish professional PGA golfer
- George Cruickshank (1897-1970) Canadian politician
- Andrew Cruickshank (1907-1988) Scottish actor

As well as 34 more in the Appendix.

## HISTORIC EVENTS

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There are 5 historic event entries in the Appendix.

**Vis fortibus armas**



**Cruickshank**

# SYMBOLISM

## INTRODUCTION

The practice of using symbols to represent people is ancient, and in Scotland it evolved into a complex system of armory. Although greatly influenced by England's example, Scotland's heraldic tradition also developed on its own, and there are many devices that are uniquely, and sometimes, exclusively Scottish.



ACHIEVEMENT OF ARMS OF  
CRUICKSHANK

An Achievement of Arms such as the Cruickshank arms depicted on the left typically consists of these parts: the Escrolls, displaying the family motto and name, the family crest (if any) seen above the helmet, the actual Coat of arms (also known as 'arms,' or 'the shield'), the Helmet depicted below the crest, the Torse on top of the helmet, and the Mantle draped from the helmet. Each of these elements will be described below. Supporters were a later addition to the Achievement; they are somewhat rare, and are usually personal to the grantee.



MANTLE OF CRUICKSHANK

The mantle was spread over and draped from the helmet and served as a protection, 'to repel the extremities of wet, cold, and heat, and to preserve the armour from rust.' The numerous cuts and slits suggest that it had been torn and hacked on the field of battle. The style or design of the mantling is up to the individual heraldic artist, and it is usually depicted in the main color and metal from the shield. The helmet (or Helm) varied in shape in different ages and countries, often depicting rank. The Esquire's Helm, as depicted here, is generally shown silver, with a closed visor and facing to the dexter (its right). On top of the helmet is a Torse or wreath which was formed by two pieces of silk twisted together. Its purpose was to hold the crest and mantle on the Helm.



## MOTTO

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The motto was originally a war cry or slogan. Mottoes first began to be shown with arms in the 14th and 15th centuries, but were not in general use until the 17th century. Thus the oldest coats of arms generally do not include a motto. Mottoes seldom form part of the grant of arms: Under most heraldic authorities, a motto is an optional component of the coat of arms, and can be added to or changed at will; many families have chosen not to display a motto.

The motto for the Cruickshank coat of arms displayed here is:

**VIS FORTIBUS ARMAS**

This translates as:

**STRENGTH IS ARMS TO THE BRAVE.**

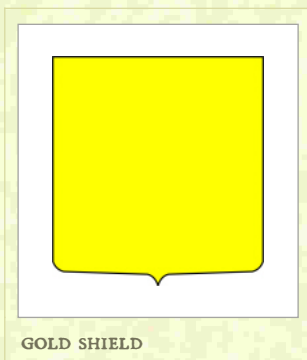
## SHIELD

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Shields (or Escutcheons) at first were painted simply with one or more bands of color or 'ordinaries'. Later, the ordinaries were used in conjunction with other figures or symbols. The Coat of Arms for the surname Cruickshank can be described as follows:



**CRUICKSHANK ARMS**  
A gold shield with three black boars heads.



## GOLD SHIELD

"Or" (from the French word for gold) is the tincture of gold and was considered the noblest color. One of only two metals used in heraldry, it exceeds all others in value, purity and finesse. It represents the light of the sun, and was once borne only by princes. Gold is said to gladden the heart and destroy all works of magic. It is also associated with excellence and achievement, and the bearer surpasses all others in valor. It is represented on coats of arms by the color yellow, and in engravings by an indefinite number of small points.

**Symbolic Virtues:** Or, the heraldic name for gold, symbolizes the virtues of faith, justice and mercy. Gold is the metal for excellence, as it is the purest and most unalloyed. It offers joy, success, prosperity and longevity.

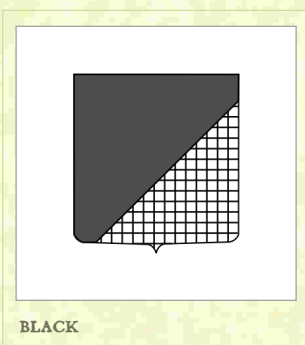
**Precious Stone:** Carbuncle; Topaz

**Planet:** Sun

**Obligations:** To defend good and honor, and to fight to the death for one's country, surpasses all others in valor.

## THREE

"Three" devices, beasts or ordinaries of the same have a special significance in heraldry. First of all, there is the obvious reference to the Trinity in the design that would signify observance of the Christian doctrine. Secondly, with many Arms it brings balance that is steeped in tradition. To better understand this latter scenario, we must look at the evolution of shield in personal armory. Kite shields that were the most popular from the the 10th-14th century evolved into Heater shields that had flat tops c. 1250. This was the time of heraldry's beginnings and when "three" objects were used for balance in each corner of the shield. Later, with the advent of the "chief," "chevron" and "bend" three devices brought balance to these ordinaries too.



BLACK

## BLACK

Sable (Archaic or literary English for black) or black, the coldest of the colors, corresponds to lead. Black, or "sable," is symbolic of sadness. It also corresponds with winter and is a humble color, suitable for the deeply religious. It denotes the qualities of knowledge, piety, serenity and work. Engravers represent it with numerous horizontal and vertical lines crossing each other.



BOARS HEADS

## BOARS HEADS (SANGLIER)

The boar is the symbol of intrepidity. A champion among wild beasts, he encounters enemies with nobility and courage, and has thus come to signify the traits of bravery and perseverance. The boar is a fierce combatant when at bay and never ceases to resist, even when cornered. This device was given only to those considered fierce warriors. A wild boar is referred to as a sanglier, though there isn't actually any difference from a domestic boar in the way that it is drawn. A boar may be drawn whole in various different positions or couped. The head of a boar is sometimes drawn erect, with the snout pointing directly up.

## THE CREST

The Crest was worn on top of the helmet, and was usually made of wood, metal, or boiled leather. It provided the double advantage of easy identification and the addition of height to the wearer. The Crest for the surname Cruickshank is described as follows:



THE CRUICKSHANK CREST

## A BOAR'S HEAD.



BOARS HEAD

## BOARS HEAD (SANGLIER)

The boar is the symbol of intrepidity. A champion among wild beasts, he encounters enemies with nobility and courage, and has thus come to signify the traits of bravery and perseverance. The boar is a fierce combatant when at bay and never ceases to resist, even when cornered. This device was given only to those considered fierce warriors. A wild boar is referred to as a sanglier, though there isn't actually any difference from a domestic boar in the way that it is drawn. A boar may be drawn whole in various different positions or couped. The head of a boar is sometimes drawn erect, with the snout pointing directly up.

# CONCLUSION

## APPENDIX - NOTABLE LIST

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- Anne R. Cruickshank, American Republican politician, Alternate Delegate to Republican National Convention from Massachusetts, 1972
- Gordon S. Cruickshank, American politician, Representative from Virginia 11th District, 1994
- Mabel Cruickshank, American Democrat politician, Delegate to Democratic National Convention from Montana, 1932, 1936, 1940, 1944, 1948
- George Cruickshank (1792-1878) English caricaturist and illustrator
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- Dame Joanna Cruickshank CBE (1875-1958) British founder of the RAF Nursing Service in November 1918
- Helen Burness Cruickshank (1886-1975) Scottish poet and suffragette
- Private Robert Edward Cruickshank (1888-1961) Canadian soldier awarded the Victoria Cross for actions during WW I
- Robert "Bobby" Allan Cruickshank (1894-1975) Scottish professional PGA golfer
- George Cruickshank (1897-1970) Canadian politician
- Andrew Cruickshank (1907-1988) Scottish actor
- Flying Officer John Alexander Cruickshank (b.1920) Scottish recipient of the Victoria Cross
- Adrian Cruickshank (1937-2010) Australian politician, member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly (1984-1999)
- Dan Cruickshank (b.1949) British art historian and BBC television presenter
- John Cruickshank (b.1954) Canadian publisher of the Toronto Star (2009-2016)
- Jamie Cruickshank (b.1986) Canadian former Olympic bobsledder

### SURNAME VARIANTS OF CRUICKSHANK

- Lieutenant John Cruikshank, recipient of the Victoria Cross
- Eveline Cruickshanks, English historian specializing in Jacobitism and Toryism
- John Cruickshanks, Scottish footballer who played in 1946
- F. L. Cruikshank, American Democrat politician, Alternate Delegate to Democratic National Convention from Idaho, 1952
- J. P. Cruikshank, American Democrat politician, Delegate to Democratic National Convention from Iowa, 1908
- James Cruikshank, American Republican politician, Delegate to Republican National Convention from Pennsylvania, 1884
- William Cumberland Cruikshank (1745-1800) British chemist and anatomist
- Isaac Cruikshank (1756-1811) Scottish painter and caricaturist

- Isaac Robert Cruikshank (1789-1856) British caricaturist, illustrator, and portrait miniaturist
- George Cruikshank (1792-1878) British caricaturist and book illustrator
- Marcus Henderson Cruikshank (1826-1881) Confederate States of America politician
- Marcus Henderson Cruikshank (1826-1881) American politician, Mayor of Talladega, Alabama; Representative from Alabama in the Confederate Congress 4th District, 1864-65
- Alfred B. Cruikshank (b.1847) American Democrat politician, United Democracy Candidate for Mayor of New York City, New York, 1897
- William Cruikshank (1848-1922) British painter
- Ernest Alexander "E. A." Cruikshank (1853-1939) Canadian Brigadier General and a historian
- George Marcus Cruikshank (1857-1936) American educator, newspaper editor and historian
- Edgar March Crookshank (1858-1928) English physician and microbiologist
- Lieutenant Colonel Chichester de Windt Crookshank (1868-1958) Unionist Member of Parliament
- Francis Graham Crookshank (1873-1933) British epidemiologist, medical and psychological writer
- Burleigh Cruikshank (1890-1982) American football player

## APPENDIX - HISTORIC EVENT LIST

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### HALIFAX EXPLOSION

#### SURNAME VARIANTS OF CRUICKSHANK

- Mrs. Cruickshanks, Canadian resident from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada who died in the Halifax Explosion on 6th December 1917
- Mrs. Estella B. Cruickshanks (1887-1917) Canadian resident from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada who survived the Halifax Explosion on 6th December 1917 but later died due to injuries
- Master Ralph S. Cruickshanks (1910-1917) Canadian resident from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada who died in the Halifax Explosion on 6th December 1917
- Master Walter B. Cruickshanks (1913-1917) Canadian resident from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada who died in the Halifax Explosion on 6th December 1917
- Master Alton R. Cruickshanks (1916-1917) Canadian resident from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada who died in the Halifax Explosion on 6th December 1917

## APPENDIX - SETTLER LIST

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### CANADIAN SETTLERS

#### SURNAME VARIANTS OF CRUICKSHANK

- Mr. Joseph Crookshank U.E who settled in St. Andrews, Charlotte County, New Brunswick c. 1783 he was part of the Penobscot Association
- Robert Crookshank, aged 50, a seaman, arrived in Saint John, New Brunswick in 1833 aboard the barque "Charlotte Lungan" from Liverpool, England

### AMERICAN SETTLERS

- John Cruickshank who settled in Newport Rhode Island in 1823

#### SURNAME VARIANTS OF CRUICKSHANK

- Elizabeth Crookshank, who landed in Maryland in 1664
- Alexander Crookshank settled in Barbados in 1678
- William Crookshanks, who arrived in Virginia in 1714
- William Crookshank settled in New York State in 1719
- Robert Crookshank settled in Georgia in 1735
- James Crookshanks, who arrived in New England in 1750
- Charles Cruickshanks, who landed in Pennsylvania in 1760
- James Crookshank settled in New York State in 1788
- David Crookshank settled in Wilmington Del. in 1789
- John Crookshank, who arrived in New York in 1798
- John Cruikshank, who landed in New York in 1798
- Alexander Crookshank, who arrived in Allegany (Allegheny) County, Pennsylvania in 1844
- Robert Cruikshank settled in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1851
- J. Cruikshank settled in San Francisco, California in 1852
- William Crookshanks, who landed in Allegany (Allegheny) County, Pennsylvania in 1852
- Frank Crookshank, aged 23, who landed in America from Halifax, in 1907
- Margaret Crookshank, aged 50, who settled in America from Birkenhead, England, in 1913
- Emma W. Crookshank, aged 50, who settled in America from London, England, in 1919
- William Crookshank, aged 23, who emigrated to the United States from Glasgow, Scotland, in 1923
- Charles Henry Crookshank, aged 48, who emigrated to the United States from Limerick, Ireland, in 1924



## NEW ZEALAND SETTLERS

- Margaret Cruickshank, aged 30, arrived in Port Nicholson aboard the ship "Lady Nugent" in 1841
- James Cruickshank, aged 26, arrived in Nelson aboard the ship "Phoebe Dunbar" in 1841-1850
- Christina Cruickshank, aged 20, arrived in Nelson aboard the ship "Phoebe Dunbar" in 1841-1850
- James Cruickshank, aged 26, arrived in Nelson aboard the ship "Phoebe Dunbar" in 1850
- Christina Cruickshank, aged 20, arrived in Nelson aboard the ship "Phoebe Dunbar" in 1850

### SURNAME VARIANTS OF CRUICKSHANK

- J Cruikshank landed in Wellington, New Zealand in 1841

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Here is a listing of some of the sources consulted when researching British surnames. The resources below directly or indirectly influenced the authors of our surname histories. We have most of these titles in our library, others we have borrowed or had access to. Source materials have been chosen for their reliability and authenticity. Our research into surnames is ongoing, and we are continually adding to our source library. For each surname history, we seek and refer to sources specific to the surname; these are generally not included in the list below.

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The National Archives (USA): <http://www.archives.gov/>

College of Arms (England): <http://college-of-arms.gov.uk/>

### MEDIEVAL ROLLS

Where available we consult Medieval Rolls or use their information as reprinted in secondary sources.

Subsidy Rolls: taxation records from the 12th to the 17th centuries.

Assize Rolls: records from court sessions

Pipe Rolls: rolls of the Exchequer of accounts of the royal income, arranged by county, for each financial year. Many 12th and 13th century documents have been published with indexes by the Pipe Roll Society.

Calendarium Inquisitionum Post Mortem: Feudal inquiries, undertaken after the death of a feudal tenant in chief to establish what lands were held and who should succeed to them. Records exist from around 1240-1660.

Roll of Battle Abbey: a list of the principal Norman Knights said to have accompanied William across the English Channel. Original roll was lost.

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Register of the Freemen of York: list of freemen from 13th-18th century, published by the Surtees Society, Francis Collins (editor) in 1897.

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Hundred Rolls (Rotuli Hundredorum): various royal inquests, documents were held in the tower of London. Much was published in 1818  
Ragman Rolls: rolls of deeds on parchment in which the Scottish nobility and gentry subscribed allegiance to Edward I. of England, A. D. 1296.

Feet of Fines: Legal agreements, usually about property ownership

Charters: documents recording grants, usually of land recorded by the Chancery

Heralds' visitations: 16th-17th century, county by county visits to regulate the use of arms; many published by the Harleian Society.

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Extra Credit goes to Mike and Kirsty Grundy at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Fyvie\\_Castle,\\_Geograph.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Fyvie_Castle,_Geograph.jpg) for the picture on the cover.