

Walter, 18th Lord Forbes

CHAPTER XIX.

WALTER, 19TH LORD FORBES.

Born, 1798. Succeeded, 1843. Died, May, 1868.

FROM the contemporary obituary notice is taken—

“Died May 1 at Richmond, Surrey, aged 69.

“The Rt. Hon. *Walter Forbes*, 18th [*sic*] Lord Forbes, in the peerage of Scotland, Premier Baron of Scotland, and a baronet of Nova Scotia.

“His lordship was the second but eldest surviving son of James Ochoncar, 17th Lord Forbes, by Elizabeth, daughter of Walter Hunter Esq. of Polmood, Peebleshire, and of Crailing, Roxburghshire.¹

“He was born at Crailing House on the 29th of May 1798, and succeeded to the title as 18th Lord on the death of his father in 1843. He was a magistrate and deputy-lieutenant for Aberdeenshire, and a very munificent supporter of the Episcopal Church in Scotland; may indeed be said to have been almost the founder of St. Ninian’s Cathedral at Perth. He was formerly lieutenant and Captain in the Coldstream Guards, and was one of the youngest, if not the very youngest officer, on the field of Waterloo, having joined his regiment only a few weeks previously, and commanded a company at Hougoumont.

“His Lordship was head and chief of the Noble Scottish house of Forbes. The date of the creation of the title is not precisely known, but it was about the year 1445. Standing as it does, however, first on the Union Roll, the barony of Forbes takes rank before all the lords of Parliament.”—*Gentleman’s Magazine*.

It will be noted that Walter, Lord Forbes, was designed at the date of his death as the 18th Lord Forbes. The insertion of Brother Archangel as the 9th holder of the title did not take place until 1906–07 when Walter’s eldest surviving son, Horace Courtenay, who succeeded in 1868, had for nearly 40 years been known as the 19th Lord Forbes. He then, for reasons which will be found on page 138, became the 20th Lord Forbes, his brother, who followed, was the 21st, and Atholl Laurence Cunyngham, the present holder, succeeded in 1916 as the 22nd.

¹ Walter, Lord Forbes, eventually succeeded to the estate of Polmood, and by the authority of the Courts was allowed to waive the condition of the entail that he should take the name and arms of Hunter. The estate of Polmood was sold in 1846. The copy of an ancient charter of Polmood, from Malcolm Canmore, is at Castle Forbes.

THE HOUSE OF FORBES

The following memorials are in the Guards Chapel. (These, of course, were erected before the change of numbering the Lords Forbes had taken place.)

“ IN MEMORY OF

GENERAL JAMES OCHONAR

17th Lord Forbes (now called 18th).

Coldstream Guards. 1781-1807.

died 1843.

St. Arnaud. Famars. Valenciennes. Lincelles. Dunkirk. The Helder. Sicily.

of his sons

Lt. Col. The Hon. James Forbes.

Coldstream Guards. 1812-35.

died 1835.

Bayonne, Waterloo.

Walter, 18th Lord (now called 19th).

Coldstream Guards. 1814-25.

died 1868.

Waterloo.

Horace Courtenay, 19th Lord Forbes.

(son of the last named)

placed this tablet A.D. 1880.”

It was not until 27 years later that Horace Courtenay became the 20th Lord Forbes—for discussion of this change see p. 139.

The story of the rise of the scheme for founding St. Ninian's Cathedral in Perth is given in the *Episcopal History of Perth* by the Rev. J. J. C. Farquhar. During the height of the Oxford Movement Lord Forbes was living in that city, and he and his friend, the Hon. G. L. Boyle (afterwards Earl of Glasgow), were moved by the religious spirit then prevailing to make a great effort for the restoration of cathedral institutions in the Scottish Episcopal Church. They approached Bishop Patrick Torry of St. Andrews, then in his 84th year, with their scheme of erecting a cathedral in Perth, together with a collegiate residence for the Bishop of the Diocese and a staff of four or five clergy to conduct the cathedral services and to serve small congregations in the neighbourhood. This was in July, 1847. On September 15th, 1849, being the eve of St. Ninian's Day, to whose memory the church was to be dedicated, the first stone was laid. The ground on which the cathedral was erected, which had been bought by subscription and vested in the name of Lord Forbes, was by him, on December 2nd, 1850, handed over to the Church, and the building was consecrated on December 11th. The Hon. G. F. Boyle paid off all the debt on the building, and guaranteed an income of £200, Lord Forbes promising £100. The cathedral was completed in September, 1890, and the son of Lord Forbes (who had succeeded him) presented one of the nave windows as a memorial to the original founders, Walter, Lord Forbes, and the Earl of Glasgow.

Walter, Lord Forbes, was twice married—first in 1825 to Horatia, seventh daughter of Sir John Gregory Shaw, Bart., who died in 1862, and

WALTER, 19TH LORD FORBES

secondly, in 1864, to Louisa, 2nd daughter of James Ormond, of Abingdon, Berks. His family was, by the first marriage :—

1. Walter Frederick, born Jan. 19th, 1826; died Jan. 6th, 1828.
2. Jonathan Barrington, Master of Forbes, born January 4th, 1828; died unmarried, December 24th, 1846.
3. Horace Courtenay Gammell, born February 24th, 1829; died June 23rd, 1914, his successor, as 20th Baron.
4. Charles Murray Hay of Brux, born March 13th, 1830; married July 17th, 1860, Caroline Louise Elizabeth Spencer, and died, *s.p.*, May 17th, 1874.
5. James Hunter of Brux (which estate he inherited on the death of Charles. It next passed to his youngest brother, Atholl)—James was born February 10th, 1833; died unmarried, Dec. 28th, 1881.
6. Robert Shaw Brook, born May 14th, 1834; died September, 1862, unmarried, at Maryborough, Queensland.
7. Atholl Monson of Brux, 21st Baron, born 1841; died 1916.
1. Emily, died unmarried, 1872.

And by his second marriage :—

8. Walter Robert Drummond, born May 14th, 1865; married Eveline Farwell, died 1933, has issue: Victor Courtenay, born 1889; H.B.M. Minister in Peru.
9. Montague Ormond, born May 5th, 1866; married Helen Campbell, has issue; Fergus, born 1898; who has one son, Fergus Patrick, born 1925. Helen, wife of the Hon. Montagu Forbes, died 1937.

“ Grace me Guide—In hope I bide.”

On Bishop Forbes' summer tower at Tullynessle.

This is the conclusion of the article on Lord Forbes in the (*New*) *Scots Peerage*, but tower and inscription have now disappeared.¹

¹ In the “*Donean Tourist*,” p. 475, the inscription is thus given :
“ GRACE ME GUYID IN HOIP I BUYID ”