

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

ARMS OF FORBES.

The "House of Forbes" has already grown to such large dimensions that there is no room for a dissertation on the heraldry of the family, but it may be noted that, according to the Lyon register, the following Forbes families have matriculated Arms :—

1. *Lord Forbes*. Az. 3 bears' heads couped, arg. muzzled gules—supporters 2 bloodhounds, arg. collared gules. Crest, a stag's head attired proper. Motto, "Grace me guide." About 1672.

2. *Corsindae*. Forbes as above, with crescent for difference. Crest, a bear's head. (Nisbet.)

3. *Sir John Forbes of Monimusk* (who died after 1700) registered his coat, without date. The Forbes arms differenced by a chevron charged with a man's heart between the bears' heads. Crest, a man's heart, winged, proper. Motto, "Spe expecto."

4. *George Forbes of Alford*, "descended of Monimusk," registered his coat 20th January, 1733. Between the 3 bears, on a chevron, a man's head proper between 2 skenes azure pommeled or. Crest, a hand issuing from a cloud, holding an anchor, all proper. Motto, "Non deest spes."

(This was George Forbes, 3rd of Ballluig, sometimes described as above, whose daughter, Mary, married George Skene of Skene; his father, John, had matriculated the same arms and motto, without date, but his crest was a skene piercing a heart.)

6. *William Forbes, Advocate*, Professor of Law in the University of Glasgow (and son of Dr. Thomas Forbes, Professor of Medicine in the University of Pisa), registered the Forbes coat with a bordure ermine and a crescent for difference.

Crest, a book expanded. Motto, "Virtute me involvo." June 17th, 1731. (The descent of Dr. Thomas Forbes of Pisa from Corsindae was through the family of Sheddocksley and Kermucks.) (See page 300.)

7. *Colonel Jonathan Forbes Leslie* (see p. 314), youngest son of John Forbes of Blackford, matriculated on July 20th, 1862, a very elaborate coat.

Quarterly 1 and 4 grand quarters quartered, 1 and 4 Leslie of Rothie, 2 and 3 Gordon of Badenscoth, 3 and 4 grand quarters, the Forbes coat

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with a skene having on its point a bear's head, and in chief a crowned otter (for Urquhart, in honour of his wife).

2 crests. 1. A griffin's head, and motto, "Grip fast." 2. A bear's head and neck, and "Spe expecto."

8. *Ogilvie Forbes of Boyndlie*, matriculated June 6th, 1894. 1 and 4 *Forbes* of Monymusk, 2 and 3 *Ogilvie*, with the 2 crests, the winged heart and the crowned lion, 2 mottoes, "Spe expecto," and "Toujours fidèle."

9. *Sir John Hepburn Stuart Forbes*, matriculated his coat, quarterly. 1. *Forbes* of Monymusk, 2. *Forbes* of Pitsligo, 3. *Wishart* and *Belshes*, and 4. *Hepburn* and *Murray*.

3 Crests—for *Forbes*, Hand issuing from a crown. Motto, "Nec timide nec temere." For *Stuart* a hand with sword. Motto, "Avant." *Hepburn*, a horse's head, "I keep traist."

Two other scions of the *Monymusk* branch who registered their arms were the sons of *Alexander Forbes* of *Dacca* and *Calcutta*, grandson of the *Rev. Francis Forbes* of *Camphill* (p. 310).

10. *Patrick Lewis Forbes*, of *Egremont House*, *Willoughby Road*, *Hampstead*, the eldest son, matriculated on 28th December, 1903. Azure—on a chevron argent between 3 bears' heads (as usual), a man's heart proper, all within a bordure, or.

Crest, a man's heart proper, winged or. Motto, "Spe expecto." *Patrick Lewis* registered these in his own name and in that of his two sisters "who may bear these arms on a lozenge," viz. *Mrs. Mary Antoinette Forbes*, wife of *Alexander Mansfield Forbes*, and *Mrs. Jane Leckie Forbes*, wife of *J. B. Batten*.

11. *Alexander Duval Forbes*, brother of the above (2nd son of *Alexander Forbes* of *Dacca* and *Calcutta*, and *Rebecca Duval*), matriculated the same arms, crest and motto, the arms within a bordure engrailed, or, date, February 15th, 1904.

12. *Robert Forbes of Rubislaw*, *Provost* of *Aberdeen*, 1671-1675. Matriculated the *Forbes* arms with a skene argent in fess between the bears' heads. Crest, a dove proper. Motto, "Virtute cresco."

TOLQUHON.

13. *Sir Alexander Forbes of Tolquhon* registered his arms without date, but before 1700. Quarterly 1 and 4 arms of *Forbes*, 2 and 3 those of *Preston*, i.e. 3 unicorns' heads; with 2 greyhounds as supporters. Crest, a stag's head attired, and motto, "Salus per Christum."

14. *Sir John Forbes of Waterton* registered his also without date, but probably earlier than the above, as he died in 1675—the *Tolquhon* coat without supporters. Motto, "Virtuti inimica quies."

(The *Waterton* family also bore the key and sword on an escutcheon of pretence, denoting the constablership of *Aberdeen*.)

Junior branches of *Tolquhon* also matriculated arms, without dates.

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15. *Thomas of Auchredie* bore the Tolquhon coat within a bordure chequy argent and gules. Crest, a small sword in bend proper. Motto, "Scientia utor."

16. *Alexander of Ballogie*, "descended of Tolquhon," bore a shield parted per fess. In chief, the Forbes bears, in base the Preston unicorns. Crest, a sheaf of arrows proper. Motto, "Concordia presto."

17. *Alexander of Savoch*, "2nd son to George of Craigie, son to Tolquhon," bore the 2 coats quarterly 1 and 4, 3 bears, muzzled sable instead of gules, 2 and 3 unicorns—in the fess-point a crescent surmounted of another for difference.

18. *Alexander of Ardo*, afterwards of Foveran (died before 1695), bore the Tolquhon coat as above with a cross pátée in the 1st and 4th quarters (for Forbes) as a difference. Crest, a stag's head. Motto, "Cura et candore."

19. *David Forbes*, 2nd son of Thomas Forbes of Thornton (who settled in the Isle of Man), matriculated on August 20th, 1765, the Tolquhon coat with a difference in the two Forbes quarters (1 and 4) of a crescent argent, charged with a label of 4 points, gules, between the bears' heads. Crest, an eagle displayed. Motto, "Spernet inertiam."

20. *Thomas Forbes of Woodston*, elder brother of the above, registered his arms just a month later, September 20th, 1765. He differenced the Forbes coat (1 and 4 quarters) of his own coat with a crescent. Crest, as his brother's. Motto, "Nec temere, nec timide." (Also the motto of Forbes of Pitsligo.)

21. *John Forbes of Culloden*, the 2nd Laird. On a chevron between the bears 3 unicorns. Crest, an eagle displayed or. Motto, "Salus per Christum." No date.

22. *Captain John Forbes of the North British Dragoons*, son of Hugh Forbes of Loretto, descended from Culloden. Az. on a chevron between the 3 bears as many unicorn's heads, erased sable—all within a bordure argent. Motto, "Spernet humum." August 12th, 1767.

23. *John Forbes-Robertson*, of 25 Charlotte St., Bedford Sq., "hath by petition of date 14 January, 1886, represented unto us that he is the only son of the late John Robertson, Merchant in Aberdeen, and Margaret his wife, daughter of Alexander Forbes, baillie of the Royal Burgh of Inverurie, descended from a younger branch of the family of Tolquhon,¹ and hath prayed that we would grant out licence and authority to him and his descendants to bear and use such ensigns Armorial as might be found suitable and according to the laws of Arms.

"Know ye therefore that we have devysed and do by these presents assign ratify and confirm to the said John Forbes-Robertson Esq. and to his descendants (with such congruent differences as may hereafter be matriculated) the following Ensigns armorials, viz. parted per chevron, gules and azure, in chief, two wolf's heads erased or, armed and langued

¹ The exact descent was not given in the patent, see page 411.

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of the second, and in base a bear's head, couped of the third, muzzled of the first. Crest, an arm erect proper charged with a heart gules—the hand holding an imperial crown, also proper. Motto, "Virtutis gloria merces." (See Introduction.)

Forty-one years later, viz. June 28th, 1927, the other Forbes-Robertson family also matriculated arms, in the person of

24. *Lieut.-Colonel James Forbes Robertson*, 2nd Batt. Gordon Highlanders, son of Farquhar Forbes-Robertson and Laura Macaulay. (The only link between the two families was William Forbes, 7th of Tolquhon—see Tolquhon Tree).

25. *Colonel James Forbes-Robertson* matriculated the following arms, 1 and 4 for Robertson, gules on a fess between 3 wolf's heads, erased argent, armed and langued azure, a wild man, chained fess-ways, proper, 2 and 3 the Waterton coat—with Forbes and Preston quartered and the escutcheon of pretence with the sword and key for the Constableness of Aberdeen. The Waterton coat being within a bordure inverted, argent, the whole coat within a bordure, or.

He bears 2 crests, Dexter, a cubit arm erect, holding a royal crown all proper. Motto, "Virtutis gloria merces." Sinister, an eagle displayed sable. Motto, "Virtuti inimica quies."

Of the HOUSE OF FORBES OF PITSLIGO the following registered arms :—

26. *Arthur Forbes of Rires*, who married in 1477, matriculated without date. Quarterly, 1 and 4 or, a lion rampant gules, for Weems, 2 and 3 the Forbes arms. Crest, a greyhound, passant proper, and motto, "Hinc delectio."

27. *Peter Forbes*, "descended of Pitsligo," bears the Pitsligo coat in a bordure of argent charged with 8 fraises azure. Crest, a skene in pale. Motto, "Forte et ferme."

28. *John Forbes of Newe*, Captain, matriculated on March 7th, 1763, the Pitsligo coat, with a difference in the Forbes quarters 1 and 4, viz. a crescent or, charged with another gules.

29. *John Houblon Forbes*, grandson of Lord Medwyn, matriculated May 15th, 1899. 1 and 4 the arms of Forbes of Monymusk, 2 and 3 arms of Pitsligo with a crescent in centre for difference. Crest, a hand issuing out of a baron's coronet, holding a scimitar in bend, all proper. Motto, "Nec timide nec temere."

OF THE FAMILY OF BRUX.

30. *Arthur of Echt* (either the 8th or 10th Laird, since there is no date to the matriculation) bore a fess chequy argent and gules between the bear's heads. Crest, a sand glass, proper. Motto, "Fugit hora."

31. *Jonathan Forbes of Brux* matriculated March 19th, 1767. 1 and 4 the Forbes coat, with a martlet in centre for difference. (This is the

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recognised mark of a 4th son, as "typifying the very small portion of land on which he may expect to rest.") 3 and 4 or 3 bars gules within a bordure wavy vert, for Cameron. Crest, a hawk's head erased proper. Motto, "Nec mons nec subtrahit aer."

32. *John Forbes*, son of George of Skellater ("Red Jock of the Portuguese army") on November 11th, 1767, matriculated 1 and 4 a martlet between the bears for Brux, 2 and 3 a chevron between 3 boar's heads (for his Gordon of Glenbucket mother) within a bordure counter compony of argent and azure. Crest, a hand holding a dagger, on its point, a bear's head, coupé. Motto, "Solus inter plurimos."

(This motto was said to have been adopted by the Forbeses of Skellater, they being the only house among the Whig Forbeses to support the exiled Stuart Kings.) (See page 442.)

Of younger members of the family of Lord Forbes, the following matriculated:—

33. *George Forbes, last of Corse*, who sold the estate in 1670, bore a cross, coupé or, between the bear's heads. Crest, a wreath of thorns, proper. Motto, "Rosis coronat spina," no date.

34. *Sir William Forbes of Craigievar*, who succeeded as 17th Lord Sempill, September 5th, 1884, matriculated the arms of Forbes-Sempill on July 16th, 1885. 1 and 4 argent a chevron chequy gules and of the first, between 3 hunting horns, sable, garnished and stringed of the 2nd for Sempill.

2 and 3 azure a cross patee fitchée or between the 3 bear's heads for Forbes. Supporters, 2 greyhounds.

2 crests. *Sempill*. A stag's head argent—attired with 10 tynes az. and collared with a prince's crown or. Motto, "Keep tryst." *Forbes*. A cock proper. Motto, "Watch."

35. *Patrick Forbes*, "descended of Milnbowie" (see page 297) (who married a daughter of James Forbes of Tolmads, natural son of the 8th Lord Forbes), matriculated after 1734 the Forbes coat differenced by a skene in pale proper, with a wolf's head coupé on point. Crest, a bear's head within a circle of olive branches, proper. Motto, "Virtute non ferocia."

36. *Henry Erskine Forbes* (descended from Duncan Forbes-Mitchell, son of Craigievar, matriculated March 2nd, 1870. 1 and 4 the arms of Craigievar with a bordure az. 2 and 3 quarterly Fraser of Fraserfield for his mother. Crest and Motto of Craigievar.

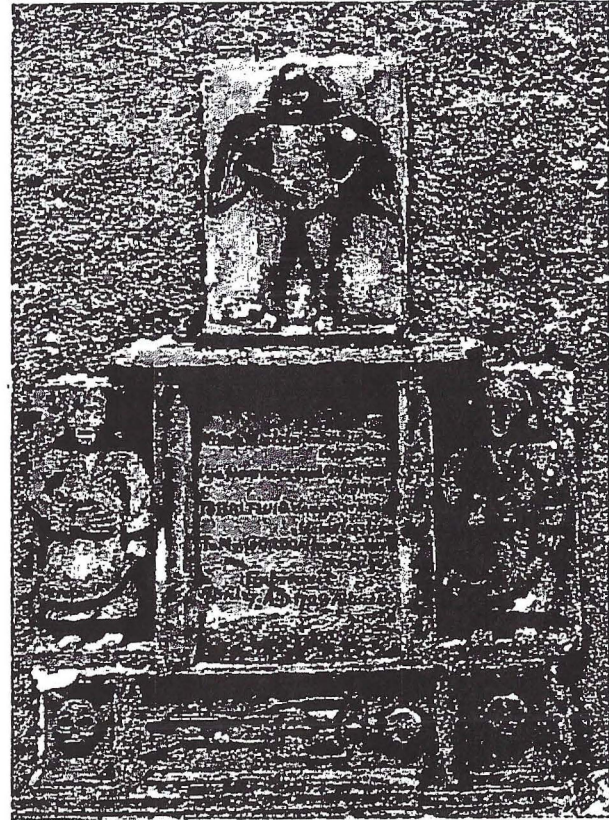
37. *Norman Hay Forbes*, a great-grandson of the 17th Lord Forbes, matriculated December 15th, 1897, the arms of Lord Forbes, within a bordure engrailed counter-compony, azure and argent, charged with 3 crescents counter changed. Crest, a stag's head. Motto, "Grace me guide," and below, "Lonach."

Many other families bear the Forbes arms with various differences, but these have not been officially registered.



CE GIST SAMUEL DE FORBOYS ESCUYER
 EN SON VIVANT SEIGNEUR DE PRESLES ET
 DE VILLIERS LE BACLE EN PARTIE ET PREMIER
 HOMME D'ARMES DE FRANCE COMMENDANT
 EN LA GARDE ESCOSSOISE DV CORPS DV ROY.
 QVI DECEDA LE CINQ D'OCTOBRE 1590
Deu Dieu luy fasse misericorde.

SAMUEL DE FORBOYS.
 (See page 468.)



MONUMENT TO MARY FORBES OF BALFLUGH.
 (See page 313.)

(From photographs supplied by Dr. Graham Forbes.)