

## CHAPTER XXXV.

### INVERERNAN.

THE branch of Forbes of Inverernan had its origin in "Black Jock," John, eldest son of the second marriage of William Forbes, 2nd of Skellater, with Agnes, daughter of William Mackintosh of Kyllachy and widow of McGillivray of Drumnaglass. He was born about 1664, and married first, in 1684, Elspet Stewart, and secondly, in 1709, Margaret Alexander. He had by his first wife nine sons, of whom only the eldest lived to grow up and marry, and he predeceased his father—the baptisms of all, however, are recorded in the parish register of Strathdon.

Inverernan, a part of Skellater, was made over to this son of William, the 2nd Laird's second marriage, in 1686, as in 1685 Black Jock is still designated as "in Buchaam," an estate which afterwards passed to his eldest son, William, born in that year. In the parish register it is stated that "John Forbes in Buchaam, son of William Forbes of Skellater, had a son baptised John Feb. 14, 1685."

In 1686 "John Forbes of Inverernan" is a witness, and this is the first mention of Inverernan as a separate estate.

At the baptism of Black Jock's third son the following is recorded, on December 22nd, 1688:—

"John Forbes of Inverernan had a son baptised, called George. The father being absent at the King's wars, his brother William of Edinglassie did present the child." This shows that Black Jock was from the beginning loyal to the Stuarts and on the anti-Covenanting side. It would be interesting to imagine him present, like young John Gordon of Glenbucket, with Dundee at Killiecrankie, but there is no record of this, and at the baptism of his fourth son, Kenneth, April 19, 1690, he was apparently present, another witness being John Stewart of Drumin, the child's uncle, whose daughter married Nathaniel Forbes of Auchernach. Before the date of the Poll-book 1696, John Forbes had also a daughter named Christian, born 1693, and a second John, who, like the second, third and fourth sons, died young, as the children mentioned in that volume are William, Kenneth, Anna<sup>1</sup> and Christian. (The baptism of Anna is *not* recorded at Strathdon.) A third daughter, Isobel, was baptised in 1696, followed by Farquhar in 1697, James in 1700. On April 8th, 1701, it is recorded that "John

<sup>1</sup> Anna married Robert Grant of Delnabo, Christian married her cousin, George Forbes of Skellater.



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Forbes of Inverernan, Baillie to the earl of Mar had a son baptized Roderick after the Laird of Brux," this completed his family by his first wife.

William, his eldest son, "living for the time in Buchaam," though only 18, married in 1703 Katherine Stewart, and himself had a son baptised on June 12th, 1705, named John, "Witnesses John Gordon elder and younger of Glenbucket." That is the "great Glenbucket" and his father. Black Jock's own children then were as follows. By the first marriage to Elspet Stewart: William, born 1685. Thomas, born 1686. John, 1687. George, 1688 (these three were dead before 1696). Kenneth, 1690. Anna, 1692. Christian, 1694. John, 1694. Isobel, 1696. Farquhar, 1697. James, 1700. And Roderick, 1701. By the second marriage, to Margaret Anderson, daughter of the minister of Logie Coldstone, he had Alexander, his successor, born 1710; and Charles, born 1712, ancestor of the family of Forbes of Kingairloch, Argyll and Hutton Hall, Essex. Charles himself was killed at Ticonderoga, 1758.

Black Jock was baillie of Kildrummy for the Jacobite Earl of Mar, and as such was largely responsible for raising the men of Strathdon for the Cause. The letter of Mar, dated September, 1715 (complaining of the small number of Mar's own tenants who had joined the Standard), which fell into the Government hands, is well known. It begins curtly:—

"Jocke—Ye was in the right not to come up with the 100 men ye sent up tonight when I expected four times this number. It is a pretty thing when all the Highlands of Scotland are now rising upon their King and country's account as I have an account of them, since they were with me, and the Gentlemen of our neighbouring Lowlands expecting us down to join them, that my men only should be refractory. Is not this the thing we are now about which they have been wishing these 26 years? <sup>1</sup> and now when it is come and the King and Country's cause is at stake, will they for ever sit still and see all perish? I have used gentle means too long, and so I shall be forced to put other orders I have in Execution. I have sent you inclosed an Order for the Lordship of Kildrummy which you are immediately to intimate to all my vassals; if they give ready obedience it will make some amends and if not, ye may tell them from me that it will not be in my power to save them (were I willing) from being treated as enemies by those who are ready soon to join me, and they may depend that I shall be the first to propose and order their being so. Particularly let my own tenants in Kildrummy know that if they come not forth with their best arms, that I will send a party immediately to burn what they shall miss taking from them. And they may believe this is not only a threat but by all that's sacred I'll put it in Execution, let my loss be what it will, that it may be an example to others. You are to tell the Gentlemen that I'll expect them with their best accoutrements on horseback and no excuse to be accepted of. Go about this with all diligence, and come yourself and let me know your having done so. All this is not only as ye will be answerable to me but to your King and country.

"Your assured Friend and servant,

"Mar."

<sup>1</sup> Since Killiecrankie.



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These orders were heartily carried out by Inverernan. All the prominent leaders of the Rising stayed on the night of August 30th in the house of Black Jock, and he was from the first one of those most deeply involved in the Jacobite plans, though he can have had little military experience, and does not seem to have been distinguished as a leader in the field.

His four elder half brothers, George of Skellater, William of Edinglassie, Lachlan and Nathaniel, were all men over 60 at the time of the Rising and probably took no active part. But Jock's nephew, George, younger of Skellater (who was also his son-in-law), was the chief leader of the Forbeses of Strathdon (see p. 442), while Lachlan and Nathaniel of that generation were also "out," and Edinglassie's only son was killed. Black Jock had also numerous cousins engaged.

He himself seems to have been with Mar's forces all the time at Perth. When after nearly two months of inaction the indecisive battle of Sheriffmuir took place, November 13th, 1715, Black Jock was wounded, and was thereafter a prisoner in Stirling and subsequently in Edinburgh for many weary months. He was one of those marched to Carlisle in September, 1716, after his ten months' captivity in Scotland, and he died in Carlisle Castle, after his trial and condemnation,—it is said on the night before the day fixed for his execution, November 8th, 1716. His devoted second wife, Margaret Alexander, was with him and had been there for some time. He can hardly be said to have "died from his wounds at Sheriffmuir," as so often stated, since he lived for exactly a year after the battle. His wife subsequently married the Rev. Mr. McSwian, minister of Strathdon, and Black Jock's son, Alexander, had some trouble with his stepfather, whom the rest of the Forbes' family seem not to have liked, since at one time they even tried to smother him. He was only twenty years older than his stepson.

II. Alexander, 2nd Laird of Inverernan, married in 1733 Margaret Alexander, daughter of the Laird of Auchmull, baillie of Aberdeen, and had :

John, his heir, born 1739. Alexander, who succeeded John. Charles, born 1748, student of Divinity, died 1771.

Helen, married Alexander Mitchell, merchant in Aberdeen, and five others died unmarried, Janet, Agnes, Jean, Isabel and Ann.

III. John, the 3rd Laird, died unmarried 1808, and was succeeded by his brother.

IV. Alexander, Captain, married in 1774 Elizabeth Grant, and had :

(1) John, born 1784, in the H.E.I. Co. Service, killed at the siege of Deig in India, 1805. (2) Alexander, Major, 71st Highlanders, who succeeded.

(3) Mary Ann, who eventually succeeded to Inverernan, and married George Forbes of Blelack (brother of Sir Charles, 1st Baronet of Newe).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> There must also have been a brother George in this family, since the old minister of Leochel writes, December 3rd, 1793: "George Forbes Inver's son is lately made a Lieutenant, in Lord Howe's fleet." No issue is known.



Captain Alexander died in 1819.

V. Major Alexander married Margaret Sarah, daughter of Duncan Forbes-Mitchell of Thainston, and died 1830. He had eleven children, but only two survived, Alexander, who died at the age of 15 in 1828, and Katherine, born 1810, married William McCombie of Easter Skene. She did not die till 1838, and left one son, Thomas, but the estate apparently went to her aunt.

VI. Mrs. Mary Ann Forbes of Inverernan, who married April 16th, 1809, George Forbes, the fourth son of the Rev. George Forbes of Leochel (the writer of the delightful letters on pp. 371-376). George, born 1778, was the boy who apparently in his youth suffered from epileptic fits, but he grew out of this trouble, did well at college in Aberdeen, and was ordained minister.

A letter from him from London, October 7th, 1810, relates how he journeyed there, a great adventure in those days, to meet the wife of his elder brother, Charles, on her return from India, and how his expenses were paid by the ever kind uncle, retired India merchant, known as "Bombay Jock," who also subsequently settled on this nephew, George, one of the estates he had bought in Scotland, namely *Blelack*, formerly Gordon property. George seems to have been a worthy minister and one who had all along had that career in view, unlike his younger brother Gordon, minister first at Towie and then at Dyce, of whom George writes, January 1st, 1811: "Gordon was lately licensed to preach the Gospel. He is not I fear much in love with his profession, which is to be regretted." In the same letter, to his brother Charles in India, the Rev. George dilates upon the joys of owning an estate, while continuing his work. "As for myself it has pleased God to bring me to the beginning of a new life of comfort and happiness. I have a kind, affectionate wife and a sweet and promising little girl just beginning to call me Father, and before many months if all be well, she may probably have a companion."

He had in all nine children—1. The above Katherine, born January 10th, 1810 (therefore rather a premature talker!) 2. Elizabeth, born June 8th, 1811, married Robert Meiklejohn, minister at Strathdon, and died at Heidelberg, 1863. Christian, born 1813. Mary, born 1814, married Rev. St. John Howard. Johanna, born 1815. After these five daughters he had a son, John, his heir, afterwards K.C.B., born 1817, and three other children, Georgina, born 1818; Alexander, born 1819, H. E. I. Co. in Bombay, who died without issue in 1849; and finally Charlotte, Mrs. Call, born 1820.

The Rev. George Forbes of Blelack died February 5th, 1834, and Mrs. Mary Ann Forbes of Inverernan, April 19th, 1848, and was succeeded by her eldest son.

VII. General Sir John Forbes of the Bombay Cavalry. He married in 1849 Emily Sandelia, daughter of Captain Drummond, younger son of Admiral Sir Adam Drummond of Megginch, Perthshire, by whom he had a large family:



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1. Mary Ann, born 1851, married Beauchamp Dennis of Newacott, Cornwall, and had Colonel Frederick, D.S.O., 7/8 K.O.S.B., wounded seven times, killed 1918; Ernán Forbes, and two others.

2. John died in infancy.

3. Sandelia Augusta, born 1856, married her cousin, George Forbes Meiklejohn, and had one son, Colonel John, of the Indian Army.

4. George, born 1858, who succeeded to Inverernan.

5. William Lachlan, born 1859, Major of Fusiliers, served in India, in the Boer War, and the Great War. He collected Forbes material for many years; died in Italy in July, 1931.

6. Emily Frances, born 1860, died 1933.

7. Katharine Stewart, born 1862.

8. Charlotte Murray, born 1864.

9. Alexander James Drummond, born 1865, Captain, Rhodesian Horse, *o.s.p.* 1912.

10. Charles Augustus, born 1866, married Rosalia McAleer, and has two sons, Charles and John, and five daughters, Emily, Charlotte, Estella, Marie, Enrique.

11. Gordon Stewart, born 1868, D.S.O., Major K.O.S.B., served in the Boer War and Great War, killed 1915.

Sir John saw a great deal of service in India, having been through the Afghan campaign of 1840, the Scindi War, 1843-44, the Persian campaign, 1856, the Indian Mutiny, 1857-58, and having been present at the battle of Solferino on the staff of the King of Italy, died July 6th, 1906, and was succeeded by his second son.

VIII. George, last Laird of Inverernan, married, 1897, Alice, daughter of General Milman, and has two sons and a daughter.

1. John, born 1899.

2. Alexander Stewart, born 1909, married, 1932, at Monte Carlo, Marthe d'Albera, and has two sons, Patrick Alistair, born 1933; Christian Charles Victor, born 1934.

3. Elyne Isabella.

George Forbes died in 1915, and Inverernan was sold in 1925, being now the property of A. Falconer Wallace of Candacraig.

William Troup records that "the present villa was erected in 1762," probably incorporating some of the older house. It has been thoroughly renovated by the present owner.

## FORBES OF KINGAIRLOCH AND HUTTON HALL

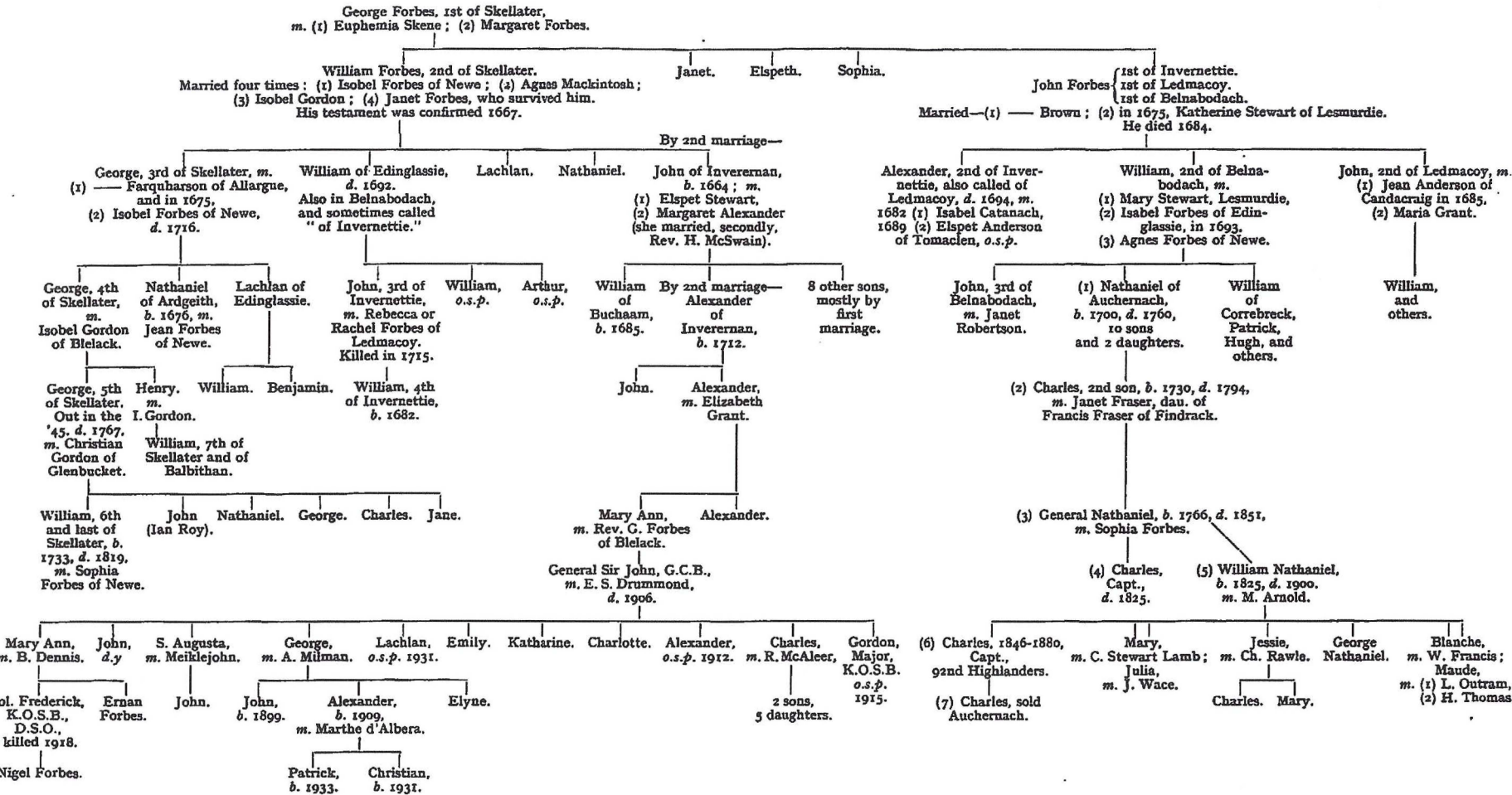
### CADETS OF INVERERNAN.

I. Charles Forbes, second surviving son of the 1st Laird of Inverernan, was born in 1712, and married Isabel, daughter of Donaldson of Kinnairdy and sister of the Thomas who married Elizabeth Duff, daughter of William

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of Dipple ; he had one son, James, and a daughter, Anne Duff, who married James Reid in Banff. Charles was killed at Ticonderoga in 1758, under General Abercromby of Glassaugh.

II. The only son, James, who owned the estate of Kingairloch, Argyll, and afterwards purchased that of Hutton Hall in Essex, married (1) a lady named Charlotte —, by whom he had :

Maria Isabella, married General David Forbes, C.B., of the 78th Regiment, and Charlotte, married Major-General Sir Charles Bruce, K.C.B.

He married (2) Sarah Richardson, and had :

(1) James, his heir, born 1803. (2) Charles Henry, born 1808, succeeded his brother. (3) Alexander, born 1810, a judge in Bengal. (4) William, Major 77th Regiment. (5) John, born 1816, died 1830, and six daughters :

Eliza, Annie and Emily, died unmarried ; Isabella, married Albert Watson of Ceylon ; Emma, married the Rev. Arthur Gregor of Buchromb, Banffshire ; and Sarah, married Captain Williams of the Royal Irish.

III. James, the 3rd Laird, died 1830, unmarried, and was succeeded by his brother.

IV. Charles Henry was in the Madras Civil Service, married 1834 Charlotte Buchanan of Craigend, a grand-daughter of the 11th Earl of Caithness, and had two sons :

V. James Alexander, who succeeded, and Charles, *o.s.p.* 1847, and six daughters :

(1) Janet, died unmarried. (2) Ida Constance. (3) Frances. (4) Helen, who married Robert Myne of the Bombay Cavalry. (5) Gertrude, and (6) Amelia.

NOTE.—An interesting relic of the Invernán family is the gun of "Black Jock," now owned by Mr. Raymond Little, of the Common, Windermere.

It is a single barrel flint-lock of three feet eleven inches in length. The wooden stock has brass fittings, the barrel has five raised transverse bands, inlaid, and between bands two and three is a shield plate, one and three-quarter inches long, bearing a coat of arms, viz., a buckle between the three bears' heads and an esquire's helmet surmounted by a crest, a sun in splendour, and the motto "Spero." At the side are the initials, I. F. Cf. *A Jacobite relic*. H. S. Cowper, *F.S.A.*, 1933.