

CHAPTER XXVII.

BOYNDLIE.

THE most important Cadet family of Pitsligo is that of Boyndlie, descended from John, third son of the 5th Laird. The estate of Boyndlie originally formed part of that of Pitsligo, as seen by the early charters. The charter from John Douglas of Balveny in 1423 speaks of Upper Bulgne, Nether Bulgne and Middlemost Bulgne and the charter from the king confirming the deed, dated three years later, spells the name in the same way. In a charter granted to John Forbes, 8th Laird of Pitsligo, in 1600 of the Barony of Pitsligo, there is no mention of Bulgne or Boyndlie, which had by then become a separate estate.

In a letter (now at Fettercairn) from the 4th Lord Pitsligo to James Hay, dated January 20th, 1729, this is commented upon, and also the fact that the *reddendo* for the estate of Pitsligo was, in 1600, one penny of silver. The letter continues :

“ There is a charter granted by my great grandfather in 1632 (that is the first Lord) stating that Boyndlie was given off to a second brother some hundred years ago, to have been holden of the family of Pitsligo for payment of ten pounds, as I find by a charter of the first Lord to my father. In the said charter the Tutor of Boyndlie is designated Alex. Forbes of Buthlaw, his father Alexander of Boyndlie being still alive.”

The charter is to Alexander Forbes of Buthlaw and Margaret Forbes his wife, and the date is April 6th. He was 3rd Laird of Boyndlie.¹

The tutor of Boyndlie had a younger half-brother David, since in his father's will, this David, eldest son by the second marriage—of which no details are known—is left an executor. There is also a paper of “ Consolations for Lady Boyndlie in her viduity.” All these are at Fettercairn, along with a great many other papers bearing on the families.

I. John, the third son of Alexander, 5th Laird of Pitsligo, and Beatrix Abernethy, founded the family of Boyndlie ; he was granted this estate by his father, and built a mansion house there. He married Agnes Gray, and was killed at the battle of Craibstone 1571. (See p. 91.) He had three sons, Andrew, died young, Alexander, who succeeded, and John of Largie ; and two daughters.

¹ He had another charter from Lord Pitsligo, May 7th, 1656, of the lands of Kinaldie, Middle Boyndlie and Cairnmurnan. (*Ibid.*)

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II. His son Alexander married Christian Fraser of Muchalls and left two sons, Alexander who succeeded, and John, a covenanting soldier, who was taken prisoner by Montrose and released on parole with the object of endeavouring to effect the exchange for himself of Montrose's follower, young Irvine of Drum. The Covenanting leaders having refused to agree to this, John Forbes of Largie, as he was denominated, returned honourably to his captivity and was not released for some time. He left a son, John, who died without issue and the estate of Largie reverted to Boyndlie.

III. The third Laird of Boyndlie, named like the second, Alexander, was better known as the Tutor of Boyndlie or the Tutor of Pitsligo, as for many years he managed the affairs of the infant son of his second cousin, Alexander, 10th Laird and 1st Lord Pitsligo, who died in 1636, only three years after his elevation to the Peerage, and, according to one account, "not long after his majority." The 2nd Lord must have "come of age" at least in 1657, but he did not grant discharge to his Tutor until 1686, and in the Valuation Roll of the County of Aberdeen for 1667 the Tutor of Pitsligo is still assessed by that title for his old estate in the Parish of Coldstone, while Lord Pitsligo appears for his own in the Presbytery of Deer. The Tutor married (1) Margaret Forbes of Rires, and (2) Mary Elphinstone and had three sons: Alexander, Henry and John and a daughter married to William Forbes of Ludquharn.

He was a great Covenanter, and as such is mentioned several times by Spalding, as in council with the Earl Marischal and other leaders. He was in arms with his own and his ward's men from 1639, and was the senior member of the Committee which met on July 7th, 1640, to consider the cases of the "outstanding" ministers, including Dr. John Forbes. (See page 317.)

Among the numerous papers at Fettercairn referring to him there is the following order from General Middleton, "by the direction of the Committee of War for the Shire," commanding him to levy men on the estate of Pitsligo to meet at Turriff 16th April 1646.

"To The Right Honorabl.

"Alex. Forbes of Boyndlie—Tutor of Pitsligo.

"6 April 1646.

"Right hon^{bl}

"These are requiring you Alex^r Forbes Tutor of Pitsligo commissionaris apointed be ye committe for Ye Sherifdom of Aberdeen for ye parioches of Pitsligo, Aberdour & Tyrie within ye presbitrie of Deer that you wt all possible diligence premoniss ye haill commissioners of ilk ane of ye said parishes—receive ye list of thair names, that according to ane act of ye last session of Parliament they require ye haill heretors wadsetteres, feuars, lyfrenters tacksmen & others within the severall parishes to bring furth the fourth man according to the first levie appoynted for England and that they meit at ye rendezvous to be halden at Turriff upon ye Septem day of April just before mentioned—sufficiently armed with swords, twa pair muskets and thrie pair pistoles and failynge of arms yat

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ye said persones compeir day & place foresaid, furnished with spades & tools, picks & gavelochs & sicklyk, yat ye compeir with horse & armes & failynge of horse that they compeir on foot, and bring ye same, as ye minister of ilk parish shall testify. And those failing of bringing their said men and armes as said is they shall be refut & haldin as enemies to ye cause & countrie & prosecute accordingly—and lykways we require yoe & the haill commissionaris within the said pariochs to keep ye sd randevous with there same men in manner & as foresaid and to give ane account of your & their diligence as you will be answerable—so resting.

“ Jo. Middletone.”

Twenty years later the Tutor fell under the displeasure of the restoration government, and would seem to have been a prisoner in the hands of Adam Urquhart of Meldrum who had been a soldier in the foreign wars and commanded a troop of horse for King Charles II. in the north.

Letter addressed “ For the Lady Boyndlie.” *Endorsed* “ Meldrum’s letter to my Mother.”

“ Aberdeen, June 29. 1666.

“ Madam,

“ I know not how to express myself at your hands for my want of power to give your husband permission to come home, but I assure you if I dirst have adventured I should never have made an scruple to send him, for if my relation to him had not been trye enough to have engadged me to hazard my interest for him, yet my respect for you would, therefore if you have anie other opinion of me pray doe me the justice to enquire if I have not done alreadie more than I can answer for which (though I doe not pretend to thanks) I hope you will not mistake me since as I have not hitherto been wanting to use my best endeavours so I never shall fail to aprove myself on all occasions Madam yr most obedient & humble servant

“ Ad. Urquhart.

“ Madam, I shall give you an account of my diligence immediatlie after my arrival in the north which I hope you will not take in ill part whatever be the event.”

(Adam Urquhart died November 10th, 1684.)

The next stage in the proceedings is this petition, delivered in London :—

“ The humble petition of Alexander Forbes of Boyndlie in Scotland (no date)

“ Sheweth That your petitioner was fyned in a greatt soume, triple his yearlie rent, that having but a small estate greatly burdened and a numerous familie of eight small children, and no other remedie left him, has been necessitatt notwithstanding his great age and at this season of the year to come to court most humble to emplor your sacred Majestie that it would be graciously pleased to Comiseratt his said condition in subscribing ¹ his fyne to a year’s rent onlie, by order all execution against his person or against his gear be suspendet, and the petitioner shall ever pray—dated at Whytehall.”

¹ Reducing.

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The answer was as follows :—

“ His Majesty is graciously pleased to appoynt that the petitioner doe pay one full year’s rent in place of the fyne imposed upon him by the parliament.

“ sig. Lauderdale.”

There was, of course, no disguising the fact that Pitsligo and his Tutor had been very anti-royalist, and interest had to be made for the former by his uncle, Sir John Keith, created Lord Kintore, for the share (though a minor one) he had taken in preserving the Scottish Regalia, removed from Dunnottar Castle to Kinneff church.)

Letter from Lord Kintore to Lord Pitsligo.

“ Keith Hall,

“ 23 Jann. 1680.

“ My Lord—

“ Having got lately ane order from the Council ordering me to give in ane list of all ye Heritors who came out to the Kings service with me, which list I must duly subscribe and swear to, the copy of which order I have sent yr lordship, which you will be pleased to return me with the Bearer, I am desirous & am sure you’ll believe me, to serve you so far as my honor & perjury can be saved thereby and you know that you had not but one man that went out for yoe & all yr interest, which I am afraid may be taken notice off Wherefore I think it very fitt you write to my Lord Marr in case there be any noyse of ye absente, to befriend you & its lyk I may be ther about the tym. I shall wait on him & concur to all the little power I have, for I have no will your name should be heard & Indeed I would question the counsell should be so severe in the search, for I swear they are to call for the registration books, & after the knowledge off our lists the rest will be found out in the books. Meantyme I have forgot your man’s name that came for to you, which I pray send me—

“ My wyf presents her most humble service to my lady and the Mistress & I shall ever be to you all My lord

“ A right affectionate Unkle &

“ right humble Servt

“ Kintore.”

During Boyndlie’s administration of the estates of Pitsligo there occurred the following transaction :—

“ It is to be remembered that my Lord Pitsligo entered to the possession of the house and yards of Ludquharn with the town and lands of Torhendry being about the sext part of the lands of Ludquharn in the end of the year 1652, but that the Laird (*Sir William Keith, first Bart. of Ludquharn*) did violently rob and meddle with the rents as shall be proven. In 1653 the Lord Pitsligo did sell the land of Torhendry to Sir Alexander Keith, the said Sir William’s son, thereby the better to corroborate the possession, but that thereafter the said Laird dispossesst his sone and the Lord Pitsligo, and kepted the same till the tyme of his death, which was in the year 1666. The town of Aberdeen did intromitt with some part of the land of Ludquharn.”

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It would seem to have been an unlucky estate, for the Keiths went bankrupt, and Alexander Forbes of Torhendry, whose father had been "in Boyndlie," also became insolvent about 1717, and the estate passed to the Guthries. (See page 363.)

There is a bundle of letters from James Mowat, "cousin Balquhollie," who was sent abroad in 1653-55 with Alexander Forbes, eldest son of Alexander Forbes of Boyndlie, Tutor of Pitsligo, for the health and education of the young man. They went to Rouen, Angers, Le Mans and Orleans, and he seems to have acquired a fair knowledge of French and to have devoted a good deal of attention to what he calls his "Exercises,"—viz. riding, fencing and dancing, in all of which French instruction was considered to be the right thing. The boy himself writes rarely to his father and his letters are very short. The tutor writes about once a month, and invariably mentions that more money will be required and that he has not heard from his employer, who seems to have written very seldom. Towards the end of the two years, he mentions that in his opinion Alexander has been long enough in France and should he stay longer might become "corrupted." The boy himself asks, if he is "not to see the whole of France as others do," that he may come home through Holland and see that country and not by a long sea voyage as he is "not a good seaman."

No details of his life after he returned to Scotland have been found, he evidently predeceased his father, which is not surprising as he seems to have been a delicate youth, afflicted with various complaints, described in detail by the Tutor.

Another interesting paper connected with the Tutor is :

A COPY OF THE LETTER OF GENERAL GEORGE MONCK TO THE LAIRDS OF ABERDEENSHIRE RECEIVED BY THE TUTOR OF PITSLIGO, LAIRD OF BOYNDLIE (and now at *Fettercairn*).

"Edinburgh. 27. Oct. 1659.

"My Lordis and gentlemen—I desire ye wil be pleased to agrie amongst your selffis to send ane of your number in behalff of the shire to meet with me heer at Edinburgh upon the 15th of November Because I have speciall occasione to speak with them about som effaires of the contrey at that tyme. I have lykwyse to desire one favour from you to get me fyftein serviceable horse as may be able to carie two hundreth weight to inable us for our marche with pack sadles and croobis¹ and a man to attend them for which each man and horse shall have eightein pense a day and that the horse may be heer upon the 20th of November which is all at present from

"Your Lordshipis verie humble Servant,
"George Monck."

The "affaires of the country" were of course the projected restoration of Charles II, and the "ane of their number" whom the Lairds of Aberdeenshire sent to confer with the General, was Lord Aboyne. Monck was not yet openly

¹ Paniers.

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on the King's side as shown by *other* letters at Fettercairn, in which he was apparently still at one with the Covenanting authorities, as he had been in Cromwell's day.

Alexander Forbes, "Tutor of Pitsligo," died in 1672, as the County Valuation of that year assesses his "heirs." He was succeeded by his second son,

IV. Henry Forbes of Boyndlie, who married a daughter of Gordon of Edinglassie. The only personal detail to be found about him in the Fettercairn papers is that "on July 29th, 1694, William Duff of Dipple discharges Forbes of Boyndlie of 100 marks Scots money, for the pryce of ane aquavitae pot or steek, sold be me to him." Witnesses, William Duff, Provost of Inverness, and M. Robertson, late Provost.

There is among the Boyndlie papers a precept for infefting Henry as heir to his father, February 24th, 1683.

Jean, daughter of Henry Forbes, was the wife of the Great Glenbucket, which is curious, as the family of Middle Boyndlie remained Whigs in 1715 and 1745. (*John Forbes*, who purchased Upper Boyndlie and was the Jacobite Cess Collector, was of the family of Monymusk. See page 303.) Henry Forbes made a disposition in favour of his two daughters, Jean and Margaret, March 13th, 1699, but only Jean was his heiress.

V. On the death of Henry Forbes in 1700 the estate of Middle Boyndlie passed to his brother John, previously known as Captain John Forbes of Largie or of Forbestown. He married firstly Agnes Foularton, and had at least three children: John, James and Elizabeth, who all died young.

A decret arbitral was drawn up in 1729 relative to the marches of Boyndlie between Captain Forbes of Boyndlie, and Theodore Forbes of Pitfichie.

His second wife was Margaret Hay, who survived until 1772 and was known as "old Lady Boyndlie." She had two sons who died young, Alexander and John, and three daughters, Jean, Mary and Elizabeth,¹ for whom their father made a bond of provision in 1731.² He died in 1741. The daughter Mary died young. Jean, who was a cripple, married Thomas Morris, said to have been a cooper. Elizabeth, the youngest, married Baillie George Philips, of Banff, who died in 1758, leaving three sons, and his widow married James Mackie of Gask who instituted proceedings to deprive Jean Morris of her portion, adducing the fact of her having married below her rank in life as evidence of weak-mindedness!, but George Forbes of Ladysford, of the Upper Boyndlie branch, successfully intervened and protected Jean's rights, as in 1773 Jean Forbes and her husband made a disposition of their half of Boyndlie to the above George Forbes described as of "Upper Boyndlie," followed by a Sasine and a disposition of the same in 1775 to James Mackie of Gask. Mackie sold it in 1784, to Captain George

¹ *Fettercairn Papers*.

² Special retour Jane and Elizabeth Forbes as heirs portioners to their father in the estate of Boyndlie, March 4th, 1772. (*Boyndlie Papers*.)

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Irvine (who married Christine Maria Gordon) and thus the branch of Middle Boyndlie came to an end.¹

The only sister of the last Laird of Boyndlie, Mary, married William Forbes of Ludquharn and had a son, James.

Letter of good advice from Capt. Forbes of Boyndlie to his sisters' son :—

“ To Mr. James Forbes, son to Ludquharn, at Geo. Forbes tailor at his house in Charles Court near York buildings in the Strand nr. Charing Cross, London.

“ Boyndlie, 23 Aprile 1712.

“ Dr. Nephew,

“ I had yr 2^d, under Barra's name, you did well in so doing, postages being expensive. I have recommended this to come up, so if possible Being I thought fitt to write, tho' had little to say, Leist you were trusting to supplies where they cannot be had. Were I in circumstances as formerly, ye might expect assistance Tho now ye cannot at this time. Ye would also doe weell to consider ye have not funds of that kind to stress to, either of yr own or others, nor are yr parents able to spare much that way, Much less to support luxury or prodigality which some alledge you to be guilty of before ye first went to sea, But wishes it may be found otherwere and that you would now seriously apply yourself to employment where you may have it and not depend upon friend or acquaintance. Many a young man has done well who have been put to your shift wt less as you went off with, but I would seriously intreat you to ponder yr own & friends circumstances and apply yourself accordingly to make a livelihood by frugall and industrious means, thinking nothing below you in a strange place for that end. And I would seriously advyse yoe to ponder your ways before the Lord & consider if ye be so walking as ye may plead this blessing upon your endeavours, for they who honor God, He will honor but others shall be but lightly esteemed by Him—Beside that He will bring their work into judgement. Consider this seriously and the Lord give you understanding thereunto—As for the money you propose for buying Lieutenants or Ensign's post, I see not where it can be had—So you wold not upon your side listen to it. I have not seen your father since Lady Cobairdie's burial, but shall write him. I'm in extream heast so must break off and bid you adew

“ as Yours to serve you

“ John Forbes.”

(*Fettercairn MSS.*)

The same nephew, James Forbes, writing to his mother a year later says :

“ London, June 20 1713.

“ Dear Mother,

“ This, after all my misfortunes is to acquaint you that at last I am come out of gaol—Captain Abercromby (Glassa) got the money from Alex Forbes at my uncle's orders, for Mr. Livingston thought that my uncle's credit was not

¹ George Forbes made an assignation of the estate in 1776 to James Mackie. This seems to have been subsequently “ revoked ” by Mrs. Mackie, whereupon James Mackie made a disposition in her favour, and a sasine was granted to her. Finally, Mrs. Mackie and her husband jointly granted a disposition and sasine in favour of George Irvine, September 1st, 1784. (*Boyndlie Charters.*)

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sufficient for that summ of money needed. I am in hope of going up the Mediteranian on board my Lord Forbes¹ his ship the *Greenwich*, otherwise in a Merchantman but you shall hear from me before I go. I had butt very small allowance to cloathe me, with which I have made a shift but am ashamed to go with my Lord Forbes so ill provided as I am—However I'll push my fortune further than I expected—Captain Abercromby hath used me very civilly and I hope you'll thank him when he comes home, which will be speedily—which with my humble duty to you and my father is all att present from Dr Mother yr most affectionate & obedient Son

“ James Forbes.” (Fettercairn MSS.)

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FORBES OF LETHENTY, AFTERWARDS OF CRAIGTOUN AND GASK.

I. The *second* son of Sir Alexander, 2nd Knight of Pitsligo, was *George*, designed of Lethenty, who was on January 10th, 1486, infest by his nephew, the 3rd Laird of Pitsligo, in 10 pounds of the lands of Coldstone, and a yearly rent of 4 merks from the lands of Lethenty, during his lifetime. He married a daughter of Alexander Calder of Asloun, by whom he had three sons :

Mr. Alexander, parson of Forbes, Patrick of Craigtoun, and William, called by Matthew Lumsden “ Sick Willie Forbes,” *o.s.p.*

II. Patrick of Craigtoun married a daughter of Robert Blindsell, Provost of Aberdeen and relict of the Laird of Culter, by whom he had a son James, and died August 20th, 1622.

III. James of Craigtoun² married a daughter of Robert Allardyce of Badenscoth, by whom he had a son,

IV. John, married Marjory, daughter of James Forbes of Gask and died 1622. In 1617 John Forbes of Gask was witness to a contract between Lord Forbes and the famous Mr. Andrew Cant, and in 1629 he was conjunct with the Master of Forbes in a bond to Strachan of Glenkindy for 7000 merks.

V. There was a Patrick Forbes of Craigtoun and Gask in 1650, presumably son to a son of the above John, since he was retoured heir to his grandfather, John Forbes of Craigtoun.³ He had also in 1654 a charter from Oliver Cromwell of the lands of Byth, which he had apprized from John Forbes of Byth for 1,600 merks, which lands he disponed July 3rd, 1663 to Baird of New Byth. (*Writs of Byth.*)

RIRES.

I. The earliest cadet of Pitsligo to found a family which endured, was Arthur Forbes of Rires, *third son* of the second Laird of Pitsligo. He

¹ Viscount Forbes, afterwards 3rd Earl of Granard. (See page 329.)

² James Forbes of Craigtoun was among those Forbeses exempted from the jurisdiction of the Earl of Huntly in 1573. (See page 104.)

³ His mother, “ Marjory Forbes ” had the life-rent of half the lands of Craigtoun.

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acquired the lands of Rires in Fife in 1477 by marriage with Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Michael Wemyss, younger of Rires, and in that year Elizabeth had a royal charter confirming her as heiress to her grandfather in the lands of Rires.

There was one son, William, who succeeded.

II. Sir William Forbes, Knight of Rires, married (1) Sandilands of Calder, no issue, (2) Elizabeth Lundin, by whom he had two sons, (1) David, who married Alison Sandilands, relict of the Laird of Balmonth; David is styled in 1519 "Apparent of Rires," but died in his father's lifetime, (2) George, who succeeded.

III. George married a cousin, of the house of Lundin, and had three sons: (1) Arthur, his heir; (2) James, *o.s.p.*, and (3) William who married Elizabeth Auchmutie, relict of Simon Nairne of Newton Rires.

IV. Arthur Forbes married Margaret, fifth daughter of "John Bethune of Creich" and aunt of Queen Mary's Mary Beaton (usually so spelled). This "Lady Rires" is mentioned in the curious legend of the substituting of another child for that of the Queen, which is said to have died. She was also credited with supernatural powers, and further to have acted as go-between betwixt Queen Mary and Bothwell. She had two sons, (1) John, designed fiar of Rires in 1550—he was killed in 1570 or 1571, possibly at Tillieangus. His wife was Barbara Sandilands of St. Monans, by whom he had three daughters, Christian, married to Robert Forbes of Newton Rires, who had a daughter Christian, married Andrew Finlay; Janet to Andrew Trail in Balcarres; and Dorothy to Patrick Hunter.

She had also a second son, Arthur, who succeeded his father.

Arthur, the 4th Laird, had a sasine of the "Lands of Reres, Wemyss, Leuchars" and others on April 12th, 1536.

On February 18th, 1539, his wife's relative, the famous Cardinal, was granted an income from the estate:

"Ane letter maid to ane maist reverend fader in God, David, Cardinal of Sanct Andrewis of the mails, fermes, profits and duties of the lands of Reres, Fawfields, Frosleyis, Bowtell, Wemyss, etc., by reason of non-entry since the decease of Thomas Wemyss of Reres, Michael Wemyss, Arthur Forbes or any other last lawfull possessor."

There must have been an error as to the "decease" of Arthur, as he and his wife, Margaret Beaton, had a fresh sasine in 1541 (perhaps recovering the property from the Cardinal!), and in 1550 Sasine was granted to John Forbes as fiar, reserving his father's life rent. Arthur in fact did not die until 1586, and was succeeded by his second son, Arthur above.

V. Arthur, the 5th Laird, married Elizabeth Morton, and by her had three sons and four daughters:

William, died before his father; Robert, who succeeded; James, portioner of Kilmany, who had a son Arthur, served heir 1637. Eupham, married

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“David Bethune of Creich,” a cousin; Katherine, married Trail of Blebo; Margaret, married (1) the Laird of Torwoodlee, and (2) Alexander Forbes of Boyndlie; Agnes, married John Forbes of Brux.

Arthur died in 1610 and was succeeded by his second son,

VI. Robert, married in 1606, Christian, daughter of Sir William Moncrieff, by whom he had six sons and eight daughters:

1. William, his heir-apparent, who married Catherine, daughter of Sir John Buchanan of Scots Craig, by whom he had Arthur, who succeeded, and Margaret, married to Thomas Gourlay, younger of KinCraig. William died in 1651;
2. James, killed at Tippermuir 1644, married Catherine, daughter of David Bethune of Creich, by whom he had a son, Arthur;
3. Robert; 4. John; 5. David, and 6. Alexander, all without descent.

The eight daughters were—

Elizabeth, married Alexander Lindsay of Evelick; Euphame, married the Laird of Tilibo; Helen, married Mr. John McGill of Kemback, Minister of Cupar; Catherine, married William Spicer; Elspeth, married as his second wife, Alexander, 11th Lord Forbes;¹ Anne, married Johnston of Caskieben; Christian, married Patrick Maule, nephew of Lord Panmure; Liliis, married John Carstairs of Cassingray, in 1643.

Robert Forbes of Rires had in 1635 a Commission to prevent sailors from landing in the little port of Elie, near his home; this was a precaution for fear of the plague. In 1639 he had “a licence to eat flesh in Lent”; he died in 1658 and was succeeded by his grandson,

VII. Arthur Forbes, married in 1656, Janet, daughter of Patrick Kininmont of that Ilk, by whom he had four sons and four daughters:

1. Arthur, and 2. William, *o.s.p.*; 3. Robert, born 1665, who succeeded;
4. James; Margaret, Elizabeth, Anna and Janet, all unmarried.

He died before 1686 and was succeeded by his third son,

VIII. Robert, who sold the estate in 1691.

The branch descending from William of Daach, second son of the eldest son and heir-apparent of the 2nd Laird of Pitsligo (said William being brother to the *third* laird) became that of Newe, and was so important and had so many ramifications, that it demands a chapter to itself. (See p. 365.)

MEIKLE WARDES.

The next minor branch was that of Meikle Wardes, though not descended from Malcolm, the first Laird of those lands.

I. Arthur Forbes, fourth son of Alexander, 5th Laird of Pitsligo, born 1533, was at first tenant of Dunbennan and then portioner of Meikle Wardes.

¹ This was the marriage about which the tutor of Cromarty was consulted in an amusing letter. (See page 191.)

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On September 14th, 1563, he acquired from his eldest brother, William Forbes of Pitsligo, three ploughs of Newton of Meikle Wardes, in the Garioch, and on July 12th, 1569, Alexander Forbes of Pitsligo, his nephew, granted to Arthur and his wife 16 bovates of Meikle Wardes.

Arthur married about 1569 Margaret, daughter of Alexander Leslie of Pitcaple, by whom he had seven sons and three daughters :

Robert, his heir ; James of Bankhead (see below) ; Patrick of Blackhall (see next page) ; George William (died young) ; as well as George, William, and Alexander, all *o.s.p.*

Marjory married John Leith of Leith-hall. Margaret married John Grant of Inverurie. Janet married Alexander Irvine of Boddam.

Arthur died in 1606 and was succeeded by his eldest son, as on April 9th, 1606, Robert Forbes of Auldtoun and Meikle Wardes was cautioner for James Cheyne in Pitsligo and Martene Vaan there, not to reset or intercommune with Patrick Cheyne of Essilmonth and others. The band is subscribed at Pitsligo by Robert and William Forbeses, son of the late Mr. Arthur Forbes, portioner of Wardes. (*Privy Council Records.*)

II. Robert of Meikle Wardes, also called of Oldtoun of Wardes, married Margaret, daughter of John Leslie of Largie, and had five sons and two daughters :—

1. Arthur, died in France, *s.p.* ; 2. Patrick, succeeded his father ; 3. George, in Aberdour (see next page) ; 4. Alexander, in Boyndlie, 1624–91 (*ibid.*) ; 5. William, in Auchlin.

Christian married Alexander Burnett, in Newton ; Jean married Alex. Logie, in Williamston ; Margaret married Alexander Garioch, in Little Endovie.

III. Patrick Forbes was served heir-general to his father, Robert Forbes, in Oldtoun of Wardes June 2nd, 1643. He married Beatrix, daughter of John Gordon of Brucklay, by whom he had two sons, Robert, in Old Wharnie, and George—both died *s.p.*

BANKHEAD.

James Forbes of Bankhead, second son of the 1st Laird of Meikle Wardes, married Margaret Logan, by whom he had James, his heir, and Mr. Arthur ; also Violet, who married James Barclay at Keith.

James Forbes, second of Bankhead, married Jean, daughter of James Forbes of Blackton. The second James was dead before May 25th, 1676, when Jean, his widow, obtained a certificate of her descent. (*Misc. Spalding Club*, Vol. V.)

Bankhead became the property of George Forbes of Kebbatty.

MINOR BRANCHES OF PITSLIGO

BLACKHALL (INVERURIE).

Patrick of Blackhall, third son of Arthur of Meikle Wardes, married Margaret Blackhall, daughter of the Laird of that Ilk, and by her acquired the property. They had five sons, James, Arthur, Hugh and William, who all died without issue, and Mr. John, minister first at Coldstone and afterwards at Kincardine O'Neil. He married Margaret Strachan of Thorn-ton, by whom he had a daughter, Nicholas Helen Forbes, married John Forbes of Kincardine, seventh son of the 2nd Baronet of Craigievar. The minister died in 1708, according to Colonel Allardyce, and according to the *Aberdeen Sasines*, John and Nicholas Forbes had sasine on Kincardine September 26th, 1709. They had two daughters, Barbara and Margaret.

TORHENDRY.

I. George Forbes, in Aberdour, third son of the 2nd Laird of Meikle Wardes, purchased the lands of Torhendry, in the parish of Longside. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Arbuthnot of Cairngall, and died without issue, being succeeded by his next brother, Alexander.

II. Alexander Forbes, formerly *in* Boyndlie, fourth son of Robert of Meikle Wardes, succeeded to Torhendry. He married Jean, daughter of Walter Forbes of Auchredie, and had three sons and two daughters:—

Alexander, his heir; George, in Killiequharn; William, *o.s.p.*; Mary, married George Forbes, in Saplinbrae, and another died unmarried.

He died February 28th, 1694, and was succeeded by his son,

III. Alexander of Torhendry, married Jean, only surviving child of Alexander Galloway, goldsmith in Aberdeen, and had two sons and a daughter (his tombstone is in St. Nicholas Churchyard).

The sons were:—

1. Alexander, silversmith in Aberdeen, who died there, July 15th, 1752 (his family went to America).
2. Thomas, minister in Aberdeen, married (1) Margaret, daughter of David Forbes of Leslie, and (2) Agnes, daughter of James Mackenzie of Dalmore. He died without issue January 18th, 1783, aged 74.
3. Jean, married James Leslie, minister of St. Fergus.

IV. Alexander, the 3rd Laird of Torhendry, purchased about 1696 the lands of Ludquharn, in Longside, previously the property of the old family of Keith, from whom they had been purchased before 1686 by one Robert Forbes, whose son William succeeded and sold them. Alexander Forbes becoming bankrupt, the lands of Ludquharn passed in 1718 into the hands of Sir John Guthrie of King Edward—a cadet of the family of Guthrie in Angus.

THE HOUSE OF FORBES

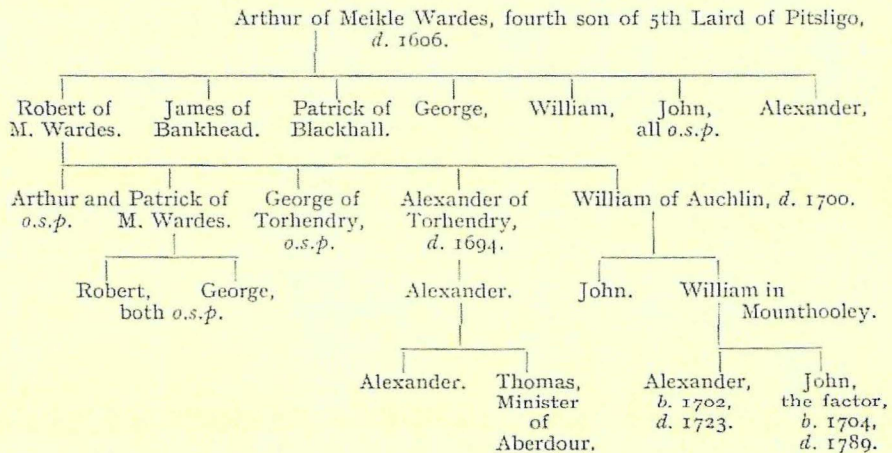
AUCHLIN.

The fifth son of Robert Forbes of Meikle Wardes was William, tenant of Auchlin. He married Christian, daughter of John Forbes of Pitnacadell, and died in 1717, leaving two sons and three daughters:—

John, married Jean, daughter of James Carnegie, litster in Aberdeen; William, in Auchmacludie, who also occupied Mounthooley in Pitsligo, he married Isobel Scott of Rosehearty, by whom he had Alexander and John; Margaret, married Thomas Forbes in Slains; Jean, married William Blake in Pitsligo; and Sophia, died unmarried.

William of Mounthooley's second son, John, in Rosehearty, married December 7th, 1727, Margaret Gordon of Old Deer, by whom he had a daughter Rebecca. For some time previous to the Rising of 1745 he acted as factor in Rosehearty for his kinsman, Lord Pitsligo, and after the latter's death, acted in the same capacity for the Master of Pitsligo. He died July 17th, 1789, aged 85.

NO. 15. TREE OF THE FAMILY OF MEIKLE WARDES.



¹ Matthew Lumsden gives four bastard sons of Sir William Forbes, 1st of Pitsligo, William Cam, William Begg, Evil Duncan of Kemnay and Lauchlan. The first had a son and two grandsons killed at the Battle of Brig of Don. The second a son William, who became of Legatsden. The third had two sons, Patrick and Fergus, the latter being the father of Arthur Forbes of Tilliebarloch.