

CHAPTER XXXIV.

BARNES, WHENCE SKELLATER.

ANOTHER most important cadet branch of Brux is that of Forbes of Skellater, preceded by Forbes of Barnes, cadets of Towie.

I. Mr. John Forbes,¹ second son of William Forbes, 2nd Laird of Towie, acquired the half of the lands of Barnes by his marriage with Elizabeth Leith, heiress thereof. They had issue four sons and a daughter :

James, killed at Pinkie, 1547. William, succeeded. Duncan and John. Elizabeth, married William Leslie of New Leslie.

John Forbes died before 1560, and was succeeded by his second son :

II. William Forbes of Barnes, married Katherine, daughter of Andrew Lundie of Benholm, by whom he had :

Alexander, *o.s.p.* John, his heir. George of Skellater.

He died before 1600, and was succeeded by his eldest son :

III. John, married Helen Forbes, and had one son :

IV. William, fourth of Barnes, who died without issue before 1650, and made over the estate to Robert Forbes, tutor of Monymusk. (It was bought by John Moir, son of Mr. John Moir of Marischal College, who married Mary Cochrane of Dumbreck and left eight daughters, co-heiresses.)

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I. George Forbes, second son of William Forbes, 2nd Laird of Barnes (a cadet house of Towie, cadet of Brux), married before March 23rd, 1593, Euphemia, daughter and co-heiress of William Skene of Auchtererne, and on September 14th, 1604, they had a charter of the lands of Skellater from Alexander, Master of Elphinstone, fiar of the lands, with the consent of Alexander, Lord Elphinstone, Life renter of the same. The charter was signed at Kildrummie—witnesses, John Forbes of Newe, and Patrick Barclay of Towie.

There was also a charter of confirmation by John, Earl of Mar, September 15th, 1626.

¹ Charter by King James IV. to John Forbes, brother-german of William Forbes of Towie, of the whole lands of Brux, etc., erected into the barony of Brux, and of its woods and bogs erected into the free Forest of Glencarvy and Glenconry. A.D. 1505. This must have been for money advanced.

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George and Euphemia had two sons, William, the heir, and John of Invernettie, Belnabodach and Ledmacoy, of whom presently, and two daughters, Janet and Elspet.

George Forbes married, secondly, Margaret Forbes, and with her had sasine on Skellater, proceeding on a charter of sale of it to him by John, Earl of Mar, May 20th, 1631. He was therefore the first Laird. George died July 8th, 1632, and was succeeded by his eldest son.

II. William Forbes, 2nd of Skellater, born 1615, married (1) Isobel, daughter of Alexander Forbes of Newe, by whom he had four sons:

(1) George, his heir, born 1667. (2) William of Edinglassie, born 1668. (3) Lachlan; and (4) Nathaniel.

His second wife was Agnes Mackintosh of Kyllachy, widow of McGillivray of Drumnaglass, by whom he had a son, John of Inverernan, the famous Black Jock of 1715. (See p. 454.)

He married, thirdly, Isobel Thomson, and had two daughters: Barbara, married Grant of Tullochgorum, and Elspet, married John Stewart of Drumin, November 22nd, 1702.

He married, fourthly, Janet Forbes, by whom he had no issue.

Spalding describes William Forbes as "a strong gentleman." In 1668 he was summoned before the presbytery for a breach of the Sabbath. He was, as far as is known, the only member of the House of Forbes who followed Dundee in 1689.¹

He died in 1700, and was succeeded by his eldest son.

III. George, married first a daughter of Farquharson of Allargue, by whom he had (1) George, his heir, and John, and six daughters, Jean, Elspet, Barbara, Mary, Helen and Marjorie.

He married, secondly, Isobel, daughter of William Forbes of Newe, by whom he had (2) Nathaniel, born 1676, of Rippachie, married Jean, daughter of William Forbes of Newe. (3) Lachlan, born 1677, of Edinglassie, married Margaret Irvine, and had three sons, William, Benjamin and John; and four daughters: Margaret, born 1680. Isobel, born 1684. Agnes, born 1687, married Robert Lumsden of Corrachrie. Beatrix, unmarried.

John, James, died young.

George, 3rd of Skellater, died 1710, and was succeeded by his eldest son.

IV. George, 4th of Skellater, married Isabel, daughter of the deceased Charles Gordon of Balbithan, and had 3 sons—George, Henry and Nathaniel. Henry married his cousin Isabel, heiress of Balbithan, and his son William succeeded to that estate.

V. George, 5th of Skellater, married Christian, daughter of John Gordon of Glenbucket, by whom he had (1) William, his heir, born 1733. (2) John,

¹ He was out with Montrose in his youth, commanding 200 men at the battle of Alford, 1646, and it was he who adopted the motto—"Solus inter Plurimos" to distinguish himself from the rest of the Forbes family, Covenanters and Whigs.

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born 1734, General in the Portuguese army and known as Ian Roy,¹ who married Dona Maria de Almada, and had three daughters. (3) Nathaniel, born 1737; in the H.E.I. Co.'s service, *o.s.p.* (4) George, (5) Charles, *o.s.p.* (6) Jane, married Lewis Grant of Rothiemurchus.

George Forbes acquired Corgarff in 1738.

VI. William, married Sophia, daughter of Captain John Forbes of Newe, and died 1819. He disposed of Skellater to his cousin, William Forbes of Balbithan, son of Henry and Isobel Gordon, above.

VII. William Forbes of Skellater and Balbithan, married Helen McKenzie, by whom he had three sons and two daughters:

(1) Benjamin, his heir. (2) John, of the Bengal Civil Service, buried at Ham. (3) William Henry. (4) Herries, married James Urquhart of Meldrum. (5) Helen, died young.

VIII. Benjamin Forbes of Skellater and Balbithan, Lieut.-General of the 80th Regiment, died 1803, aged 84, when the estate of Skellater was bought on behalf of Charles Forbes, afterwards Sir Charles, 1st Baronet of Newe, for £24,000 (see p. 380), and Balbithan passed to Benjamin Abernethie Gordon.

General Benjamin Forbes left three daughters:

Margaret, who married Captain Thomas Mosse. Elizabeth, married Colonel Jerney. Isabella, married the Rev. Samuel Lindsay; so that the male line of the original Skellater Forbeses has died out, though descendants of Auchernach and Belnabodach still exist. (See tree, p. 453.)

SKELLATER FORBESSES IN THE JACOBITE RISINGS.

The most remarkable member of this family was George, the 4th Laird, who, in 1715, was still "younger of Skellater," as his father only died, an old man, in 1716. George was, from the beginning of the rising, one of the most enthusiastic of the Aberdeenshire Jacobites, and in October, 1715, Major Fraser who, with Lord Lovat and John Forbes of Culloden, had been intending to proceed in the Hanoverian interest from Fraserburgh to Inverness by way of Banff, was deterred from so doing because, as Fraser says, they heard that "Forbes of Skellater was at Banff collecting taxes for the King, meaning the Pretender and we thought it not convenient to travel that way for fear of scratched crowns." In December of the same year Skellater and his cousin of Invernettie were again very active in the neighbourhood of Keith.

It is not known whether George Forbes was at Sheriffmuir or not, but for long after the failure of the rising he was in hiding in his native land, as his brother Nathaniel told Mar. (See below.) Both his wives came of Jacobite stock. Christian, the first, was the daughter of his uncle, Black Jock of Inverernan (Mar's Baillie in Kildrummy), who died in Carlisle, and the second was Isobel Gordon of Blelack, whose nephew, Charles, was one of the prisoners of the Forty-five. George Forbes did not lose his estates, and died at home about 1730.

¹ See letter from George of Leochel, p. 377.

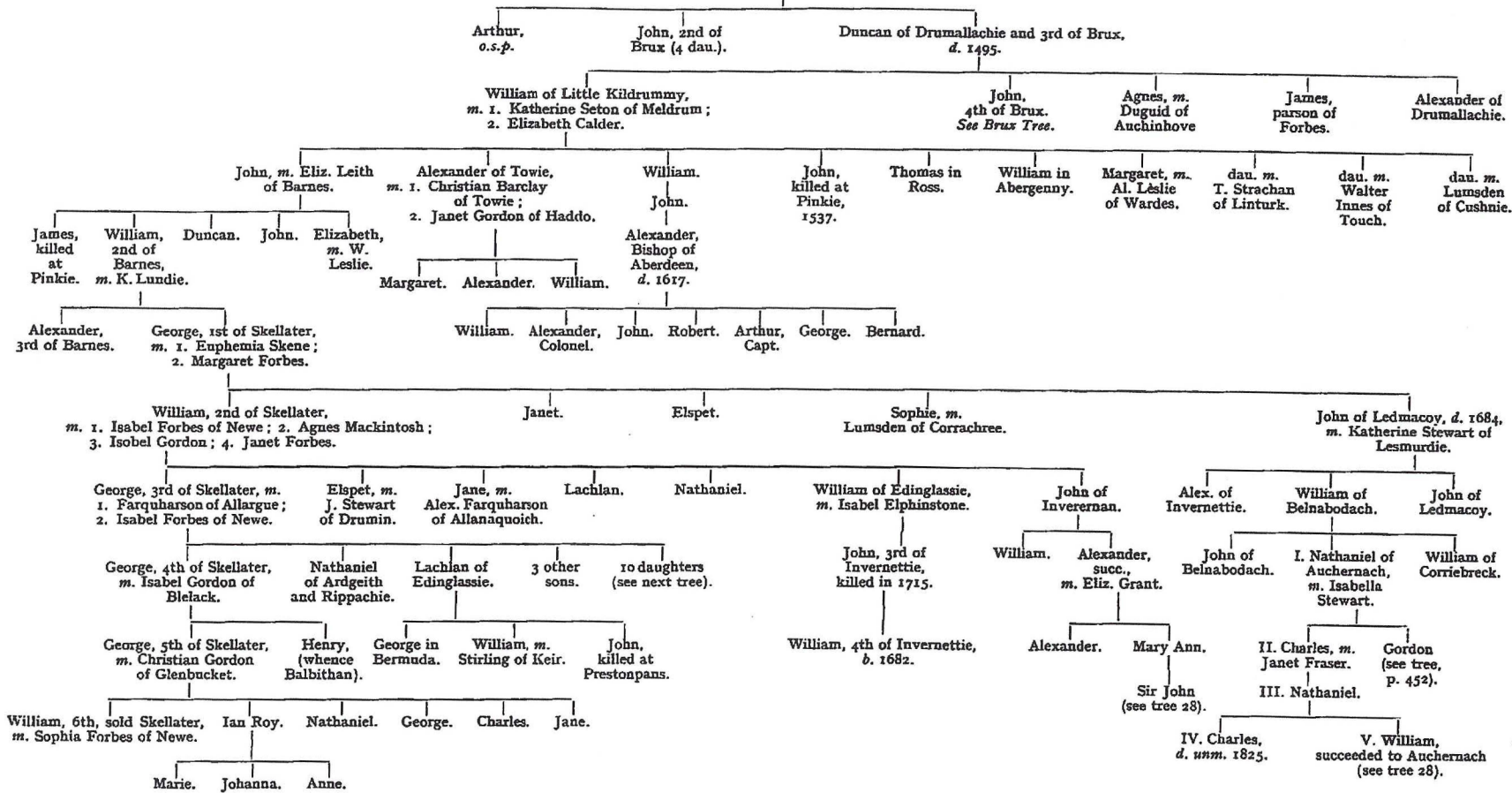
FAMILY TREE

No. 26

SKELLATER

No. 26. SKELLATER.

Alistair Cam Forbes, 1st Laird of Brux,
m. Catherine Cameron.



His younger brother, *Nathaniel* (variously described as of Ardgeith, Rippachie, or Dalhandy), was even more actively engaged, as he was with the army under Macintosh of Borlum which marched into England, Nathaniel being one of those taken at Preston and conveyed as a prisoner to London. He however escaped from the Marshalsea and made his way to France, apparently himself hiring a small barque to take him over. He had hoped to find the King and Mar still in Paris, but they having removed to Avignon, he was unable to incur the expense of a further journey, and had no wish to become burdensome to the King. In his letters, among the published *Stuart Papers*, he asks for advice as to what he should do, thinking perhaps that in the event of an Indemnity he might return to Scotland where he had left "a wife¹ and eight young children." The Duke of Mar, when writing to Robert Arbuthnot, a banker from Buchan settled in Rouen, who befriended many fugitive Jacobites, said, "I am very glad Forbes is got safe to this side, he is a very pretty fellow, and may one day yet be of use to us. I hope he may fall on some way to support himself till the King's affairs be in a better way." These good wishes were not, however, all that was done for Nathaniel. A few days later, Mar wrote to Dicconson, "I have the King's orders to write to you that there are some poor officers at Paris come from Scotland and England, in a starving condition, particularly Lt. Col. Forbes, who lost his estate and has a wife and many young children, of whom I hope his friends will take care." Dicconson replied that he had already had orders from the Queen Mother to provide for Forbes, and in May, Forbes wrote to Patterson that he had received 100 livres from Dicconson but adds, "you know what a little way that will go in this country," and also laments that "coming as I did" (that is as an escaped prisoner) he was not able to bring any clothes or money with him from Scotland, as others had done, and has serious thoughts of going to Calais or Dunkirk and trying if he could "light on some honest man who would set me benorth Tay, and I would, in spite of the devil, lurk a month and settle my small estate some way on my wife and children (having unwisely done nothing thereof before I came away) and afterwards return here."

It seems possible that he did this, but in June, 1717, he was back in Paris, as he wrote to Mar from there that "both my brothers" (i.e. George of Skellater and Lachlan of Edinglassie), "are skulking in the hills." In May he wrote from Holland that he was "wearied of an idle life and of being chargeable to the King, and thought of going to Ireland," but seems to have drifted back to France.

The last that is known of him is a letter at Windsor, 1731, directed to "Monsieur Waters banquier à Paris pour faire venir à Monsieur Edgar à Rome."

" Boulogne Octr 26 1731.

" Dear Sir

" I hade the favor of yours of the third instant, wherein you told me that all the Royall familie are in good health ; then which nothing in the world can be more agreeable to me. As also that the King of his great goodness hath been graciouslie pleased to remember me ; And to order I shall be put on the Collonels list at St Germain's Ime persuaded it will meet wth no difficultie, And Ile write soon to Mr Dickinson and lett you know his answer.

¹ Jean, eldest daughter of William Forbes, 6th of Newe, whom he married in 1701.

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I sent over in June last for my wyfe and one of her daughters: And as Bologne by reasone of the Vast resort of English smuglars, is become a very dear place I think of goeing ten or twelve miles further into Ye Country. And if the King at any time have occasione for my poor service, if I had a thousand lives and as many fortunes I wold venter all in his majesties service; as it is my dutie, I thank God it was always my Inclinatione, and ye have but to direct for me to Lochells, M^r Gordons, or M^r Charles Smiths care at Boulogne and it will soon come to my hands, for I assure you I never intended to goe over w^t out the Kings majesties previous Leave

"I wold have wrote you Long er now, but haveing little or nothing to Say, was Loath to trouble you who has the honor to be always bussie about the King affairs, mean time, and always I am in good truth & sincerlie

"Dear Sir

"Your most affectionat

"& most obedient humble servant

"Nath^l. Forbes."

(*Stuart Papers*, Windsor.)

Nathaniel's nephew, *George, 5th of Skellater*, who married the daughter of John Gordon of Glenbucket, was likewise famous as a Jacobite, but in the rising of 1745. He joined the Prince very early and received a Lt.-Colonel's commission. He was present at Culloden, and quite at the beginning of the battle a cannon shot shattered his horse's head, whereupon a faithful follower beside him exclaimed in indignation, "See, laird, what they've done to your pownie." Skellater escaped from the battle and went home, apparently openly, and at the head of his followers, for in Bisset's Diary it is reported that "Skellater and some other gentlemen have some body of men in Strathdon." Later, like others, he took to the hills, and watched from his hiding-place the arrival at Skellater of Lord Ancrum, who however did not burn the house,¹ being pacified by the manner in which Forbes' wife came out to meet him, accompanied by her young children. There were five boys, of whom the eldest could not have been more than eleven. Lord Ancrum marched away up the Strath and laid siege to Corgarff, still held by a party of Jacobites, and Ancrum's orders from Cumberland really only concerned that stronghold, which was quitted on his approach, when he burned the arms and powder found there, as seen from the Duke's dispatches. Later, in 1746, it was reported that "Skellater was gathering his men again," but in vain. He escaped to France and was among those to whom the French King granted a bounty; his name appearing in the list in the French Foreign Office as having received a sum of 1500 livres. He made no attempt to come home in 1747, though his name was not among the 27 lairds of Aberdeenshire and Banffshire who figured in the exceptions to the Act of Indemnity of that year. He remained in Paris, obtained a Captain's commission in Lord Ogilvy's regiment, and served with it at the siege of Maestricht in 1748. Four years later the English Government had a report from one of its numerous spies that Dr. Archibald Cameron, Lochgarry, Skellater, and other Jacobite leaders were coming to Scotland to plan

¹ This fine old house is still in existence, though being uninhabited, is likely soon to fall into decay.

another rising, at a meeting to be held at the cattle fair at Crieff. Cameron and Macdonell of course did come, and the former was caught and hanged, without trial, on the old warrant of 1746, but it is not known whether Skellater came or not. If he did so, he got safely back to France, and died at Boulogne, October, 1767. His wife, Christian, the daughter of Glenbucket, died at Dalhandy, the property of Nathaniel Forbes, in 1784, when she must have been an old lady. Her two elder sisters married the Highland chieftains, Glengarry and Lochgarry.

George Forbes had been much trusted in the rising by his redoubtable father-in-law, and several interesting personal letters to him are to be found among the *Cumberland Papers* in the King's Library at Windsor; no doubt taken among the Jacobite property looted in Inverness after Culloden, and now incongruously filed among the English military reports and "movement orders" of the period. Skellater received orders from Mar and Glenbucket to raise all fencible men between 16 and 60, and a month later his father-in-law writes from St. Bridget, September 5th, 1745:

"Dear Geo. I am concerned to see your countrie so backward to relieve yourselves from slaverie and povertie. Though no pleasure to force, yet necessitie oblidges. Get your own men ready, march down amongst those your order oblidges you to raise. Since Cushny ¹ his health will not allow of his going, he'll concur to oblidge his tenants and give arms. If Glenkindie ² is gone, you'll raise tennents and take his arms and so goe on accordingly with the whole. I march from this to Glenlivet this day qhr. you'll acquaint me qht your doing. No tym to be lost. I am glad yr uncle ³ is come. How soon this come to yr hand acquaint Blelack ⁴ that I marched and that he may acquaint Monaltrie ⁵ and all our friends to make all possible dispatch to joyn wtout loss of time. If absolute necessitie, I shall send ane partie over yr ladder ⁶ on ye Strathbogie and Enzie gentrie. I hope they'll be ready, or I can reach them. If I am forced to send a partie, it must be Highlanders who, I am afraid will not, away from myself, be so agreeable nor so regular to the countrie. But since they deserve to be made examples of, blame yourselves. Your orders are full, therefore pray goe diligently about ym. In all haist, for tomorrow night I design to be the length of Achindoun, in order to raise that countrie. My service to yr Uncle, Christiane and the Bairnes. J.G."

(The violence of Glenbucket's parties of Highlanders in forcing men out became, unfortunately, notorious.)

With regard to the gentlemen of the Enzie district, John Gordon of Avochie also wrote that they were "hellish backward" with the exception of Gordon of Buckie and Gordon of Letterfourie.

¹ Harry Lumsden, a Jacobite of the '15 and in 1745 a man of over 60. His daughter married James Burnett, one of the officers in Carlisle.

² Patrick Strachan, a Government supporter.

³ This was Lachlan Forbes of Edinglassie, who had two sons out in the '45, Benjamin (see next page) and John, killed at Prestonpans. His wife was Margaret Irvine of Brucklay.

⁴ Charles Gordon, nephew of Skellater's mother, also out in the rising.

⁵ Francis Farquharson, a Jacobite who returned to Scotland after eighteen years in England.

⁶ The hill still retains this name.

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Another interesting letter in the Cumberland papers concerns Skellater's cousins, John Forbes of Belnabodach and Edinglassie's son.

" Unto Major Patrick Gordon of Gordonhouse. Leith. 9 Oct. 1745.

" Commanding officer for the time of

" Major Gen. Gordon of Glenbucket his Reg. att Leith.

" The representation of Capt. Lieut John Forbes of Belnabodach and Ensign Benjamin Forbes of Collonel George Forbes of Skellater his Company

" That the men of the said company and of the next Lt his Company all formerly belonging to Skellater, being in number 48, are very badly lodged in a part of the open straw lofts in Leith, wherein there's no convenience for having fire to sitt att, and dress their victualls, nor any sort of clothes to cover them, by which means the greatest part of the said men are rendered sickly so yt they are neither fitt for duty or marching. And as we have gott information of empty lodgings wherein yers fire-rooms where they may be weel accomodated, Such as Charles Lydall, Gairdner his upper Story or William Putton's land, being all wast, Therefore entreats you order Robert Mckilen, Moderator-Constable to lodge them in either of these places and provide ym in Coal and Candle etc.

" John Forbes,

" Benjamin Forbes."

That there was some justice shown in Scotland even after the '45, the following papers from the Public Record Office testify :

In 1748 General Humphrey Bland, then commanding in Scotland, wrote to the Lord Advocate to announce that he was about to put a garrison into Corgarff Castle, " The owner, Mr. Forbes of Skellater having forfeited his estate to the Crown, by accepting of a Captain's Commission in the French service in Ogilvy's Regt." But the Lord Advocate, Sir William Grant of Prestongrange, a hard-headed Scot, replied that " though George Forbes was a very notorious rebel, he being neither attainted by Act of Parliament nor upon trial, by due course of law, his estate or this Castle is certainly *not* forfeited actually, or vested in the Crown ; and is therefore not, at this day, liable to be seized or taken possession of that as such."

Skellater's estates therefore passed to his son William, who died in 1819, having previously disponded the lands to William, his first cousin, son of his Uncle Henry Forbes, second son of the 4th Laird and of Isabel Gordon of Balbithan. William Forbes of Skellater and Balbithan sold Skellater to Newe in 1815.

Besides his eldest son, William, George, the Jacobite Laird of Skellater, had a son, John, or Ian Roy, who was a volunteer at the Siege of Maestricht and became a famous General in Portugal ; another son, Nathaniel, in the H.E.I. Co.'s service, and George and Charles, who died without issue. Also a daughter, Janet, married to Colonel Lewis Grant of Rothiemurchus.

General John, born in 1736, married Dona Maria de Almoda, of an old Braganza family, and had three daughters. The eldest, Marie Christina, married in 1800 General Fraser of Fraserfield ; the second married the

Marquis of Albuquerque ; and the third, Monsieur de Melho. The General died at Rio de Janiero, Brazil (whither he had accompanied the Portuguese royal family), April 1st, 1818, and the following inscription is on his tomb in the cathedral there :

“ Ici reposent les cendres de son Excellence le très haut et puissant Seigneur Jean Forbes de Colquharry. Ecosais de naissance et descendant de l'ancienne et illustre famille de Forbes de ce pays, qui ayant passé au service du Roi de Portugal a mérité par ses hautes qualités et ses grandes vertus, par sa fidélité, sa valeur et ses grands talents militaires, d'occuper les grades de General de Cavalerie, Inspecteur General de l'Infanterie, Maréchal General des Armées, Conseiller de Guerre et des Conférences etc. etc. etc. Et le Prince, alors Régent, lui ayant confié le commandement de l'armée auxiliaire Portugaise, il a passé en Catalogne où en consequence des victoires Corvet Coullières et de la glorieuse Campagne de Rousellon it fut décoré des Insignes de l'ordre du Christ, des Grands Croix de celles d'Ariz, et de Charles III (Espagnol) et vit enfin le scéau à sa fidélité en accompagnant S.A.H. le Prince Régent au Brazil où il fut, en arrivant, nommé Gouverneur militaire de la Ville et de la Province. Poste qu'il na pourtant pas exercé longtemps ayant succombé à une courte maladie bientôt après son arrivée à Rio Janeiro le Avril 1818.”¹

The above is on the Cathedral at Rio.

William Forbes of Skellater and Balbithan² married Helen Mackenzie, by whom he had three sons, Benjamin, his heir, John and William Henry, both in the Bengal Civil Service. John, who died in 1862, is buried at Ham, in Surrey.

A daughter, Herries, married to James Urquhart of Meldrum (for her was written “ Miss Forbes' Lament ”), and another Helen, died young.

VIII. Benjamin, Lieut.-General of the 80th Regiment, passed many years in India. He served under Lord Cornwallis and led the Light Companies at the storming of Seringapatam. He was one of the five officers who presented Sir David Baird with a sword in commemoration of that day.

Though Benjamin was denominated of Skellater and Balbithan, the former estate was sold just before the death of his father, which took place May 15th, 1815, and at Benjamin's own death Balbithan passed to Benjamin Abernethie Gordon, who died 1864.

It is said that a chest containing interesting documents relating to Skellater and Balbithan was carried off to France after the death of General Benjamin Forbes by an illegitimate daughter who had lived with him. The representation of the family then passed to that of Skellater.

¹ Red Jock once challenged the famous John Wilkes to a duel, but the latter declined it.

² This William Forbes also at one time held the lands of Findrassie.

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ARDMURDO.

I. William Forbes of Ardmurdo, third son of William Forbes of Little Kildrummy, acquired the estate of Ardmurdo in the parish of Keith Hall about 1500.

He married, secondly, Margaret, daughter of Sir John Lundin, who was the widow of Allardyce of Allardyce.

II. They had one son, John, born 1526, who married as his second wife a daughter of Graham of Morphie. These were the parents of Alexander, Bishop of Aberdeen, and of a second John, who succeeded as 3rd Laird.

Alexander, the future bishop, was born in 1564. He was first appointed as minister of Fettercairn May 28th, 1588. In 1604 he was promoted to the Bishopric of Caithness, being well known as a preacher and a controversialist. He was, for some reason, allowed to retain his charge at Fettercairn and was sometimes derided as an absentee Bishop—but he maintained his Episcopal dignity and was one of those who, attired in silk and velvet, rode to the opening of Parliament at Perth in 1606.

He was also a member of the Assembly at Glasgow which re-introduced Episcopacy into Scotland, 1610; and in the following year, on the re-establishment of the Episcopal succession in Scotland from England, he was consecrated at Brechin by the Archbishop of St. Andrews and the Bishops of Dunkeld and Brechin. In 1616 he was appointed to the vacant see of Aberdeen, and installed there February 23rd, 1617, but he died on December 14th of the same year, being succeeded by the more famous Bishop Patrick Forbes of Corse.

The bishop married Christian, daughter of Straiton of Craigie, and had issue, seven sons and three daughters.

The eldest, William, was served heir to his father, and was a soldier under Montrose.

John was the minister of Auchterless who suffered for his political opinions at the hands of the Covenant.

George died without heirs.

Alexander was a colonel in the Swedish army and Arthur a captain. Of Robert and Bernard there is no record.

Of the daughters, Marjory married a cousin, Andrew Straiton of Warburton Isobel married George Forbes of Allathen, and Jean married Mr. Robert Leighton.

The bishop was sometimes known as "The Collie," from his habit of following his friends home about the hour of dinner, in order to share their meal.

In the papers of Erskine of Dun, 1603, appears the following:

"The King appoints Mr. Alexander Forbes, minister of Fetterkairne a member of the Mearns Presbytery to accompany him to London on the occasion of the death of Queen Elizabeth, with other members similarly called, and to bring back to Scotland directions to the General Assembly regarding the preservation

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of the peace and unity of the Kirk. Alexander Forbes of the house of Ardmurdo, rector of Fettercairn in Mearns, was promoted to the see of Caithness 12 November, 1606, where he sat until he was translated to Aberdeen 1615, but he died 1617."

III. John Forbes, younger brother of the bishop, succeeded his father in Ardmurdo. He married a daughter of John Forbes of Towie, and had issue :

John, his heir, and Isabel, married David Farquharson of Balfedie.

IV. John the 4th, married Margaret, daughter of Mr. James Forbes of Knappernay, by whom he had issue :

V. Alexander, his heir,¹ and Arthur, both colonels in the Swedish army, and John.

VI. Alexander had a son, John, of whom nothing more is known.

Another Bishop of Caithness was the famous Bishop Robert Forbes, author of the *Lyon in Mourning*, but his connection with any of the well-known branches of Forbes has not been established. He was a prisoner during the '45 and died 1776.

INVERNETTIE, BELNABODACH AND LEDMACOY.

These three estates were at one time in the hands of John Forbes, second son of George, 1st Laird of Skellater.²

He left them to his sons, of whom he had three, Alexander, William and John, and nine daughters, and as the family became rather complicated, a separate tree is here given.

Alexander, who received Invernettie, married 1682 (1) Isobel, daughter of Donald Catanach of Toldaquhill, and (2) Elspeth Anderson, leaving an only child, Elspeth. He disposed the lands of Invernettie about 1685 to his father-in-law in security for a debt of 3000 marks. They passed soon after to his first cousin, William Forbes of Edinglassie, second son of the 2nd Laird of Skellater, whose son, John, was served heir to his father in the lands of Invernettie, July 14th, 1692. John married (1) Rachel, sometimes called Isabel, youngest sister of Alexander, the former Laird of Invernettie, his first cousin once removed.

I. William, second son of John Forbes (of the *three* estates), received the estate of Belnabodach. He married (1) Mary, daughter of Stewart of Lesmurdie, by whom he had two daughters, Agnes, born 1682, and Isobel, born 1686, and (2) in 1693 Isabel, eldest daughter of William Forbes of Edinglassie, his cousin, and had two sons, John, his heir, and Joseph. He married (3) Agnes, youngest daughter of William Forbes of Newe, and by

¹ Alexander was perhaps the Alexander Forbes of Boigtoun, who in 1633 had a sasine of the shadow half of Ardmurdo, or the lands may have passed to another member of the family.

² In 1664 this John Forbes was concerned in "a scuffle with swords and pistols" with William Forbes of Newe and others, in the kirkyard at Invernochty.

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her had : Nathaniel of Auchernach. (See next page.) William of Corriebreck, who inherited from his aunts. George of Culquhunny ; and Hugh, died in the West Indies, 1769.

III. John, second of Belnabodach, married in 1708 Janet, eldest daughter of Mr. Robertson, minister of Strathdon, and had one son, William, minister of Towie, who died at Coupar, 1775.

Belnabodach had been sold during the lifetime of John, and this family came to an end.

LEDMACOY.

The third son of the John who owned Invernettie, Belnabodach and Ledmacoy, also called John, succeeded his father in the last-named estate, married 1685 Jean, daughter of Arthur Anderson of Candacraig, and had issue, three sons : John, born 1692 ; William, born 1693 ; and Nathaniel, born 1697 ; and six daughters, of whom only one, Elizabeth, survived and married Ludovick Stewart ; he married, secondly, Marie Grant.

The John Forbes, father of these three sons, who inherited his three properties, had also nine daughters :

(1) Violet the eldest, born 1680, died unmarried. (2) Elspet, married, as his third wife, William Elphinstone of Bellabeg. (3) Jean, married Duncan Catanach of Toldaquhil. (4) Helen, married John Grant of Blairfindy. (5) Agnes (also called "Nan"), married Duncan Anderson of Candacraig. (6) Diana, born 1682, married Roderick Farquharson of Allargue. (7) Isobel, married Alexander Thomson in Culsh. (8) Rebecca, unmarried ; and (9) Rachel, the youngest, married her cousin, John Forbes of Invernettie, son of William of Edinglassie.

All these particulars come from the Strathdon Registers and the Register of Sasines in Edinburgh.

Two of the above daughters, Violet and Diana, seem to have made over their property to John Forbes of Invernettie, husband of their youngest sister, Rachel, and Diana, who survived her sister, is recorded to have signed the deed, October 7th, 1703, "Touching the pen with her hand, for the said Diana Forbes cannot write." What they owned were the lands of Corriebreck and Blairnamuck, and the former estate afterwards passed to William Forbes, their nephew, ancestor of Forbes of Seaton. (See p. 452.) The son of John Forbes of Invernettie, to whom his sisters-in-law made over the property, was named William, and was "killed by Lord Forbeses men in 1715,"¹ so that he too was a Jacobite. The estate then probably reverted to the ladies, who left it to their nephew.

Corriebreck is in the parish of Invernochty. At the date of the Poll Book, 1696, it was in the hands of James Grant.

¹ At Dalhandy.

AUCHERNACH.

I. Nathaniel Forbes, eldest son by the third marriage of William of Belnabodach, married Isabella, daughter of John Stewart of Drumin, who died October 29th, 1772, and had ten sons and two daughters :

(1) William, died young. (2) Charles, succeeded his father. (3) George, married Elizabeth Gordon in Auchindoir and left issue. He died on his passage home from India in 1789—his daughter, Marie, married Joseph Brett. (4) John, comptroller of the Customs in Aberdeen, married Anne Bowman, by whom he had five children who died in infancy ; a daughter, Sophia, married her cousin, Nathaniel of Auchernach. (5) Lachlan, died in Havana, 1782. (6) James, died in Bengal, 1770. (7) Gordon of Ham Common, General, died 1828. (8) Hugh, died in the West Indies. (9) Urquhart, died young. (10) David, killed at Guadaloupe, 1794.

Anne married — Carmichael, and Christian married — Webster.

Nathaniel Forbes died October, 1760, and was succeeded by his second son :

II. Charles, born November 13th, 1730, married, firstly, November 10th, 1763, Janet, daughter of Francis Fraser of Findrack, and had three sons :

(1) Nathaniel, his heir. (2) George, Lieutenant 3rd Madras Cavalry, died at sea, April 10th, 1796, aged 26. (3) Francis, died young.

Charles Forbes married, secondly, Isabella Stewart of Lesmurdie, and had three more sons and two daughters :

(4) David, Major-General, of Migvie, married Isabella, daughter of James Forbes of Hutton Hall and Kingairloch, by whom he had four sons and four daughters : 1. Charles, Bombay Civil Service. 2. George, 5th Madras Cavalry, who married Charlotte Brand. 3. James ; and 4. David, who died in infancy.

Joanna Charlotte, married in 1845 W. P. Cockburn, 18th Royal Irish Rifles. Marie, Emma and Sophia.

The fifth son of Charles, 2nd of Auchernach, was James, born 1780, Lieutenant 72nd Highlanders, died in Aberdeen 1804, aged 84. (6) Alexander, born April 9th, 1787.

Mary, born 1782, married J. Mackenzie and had issue ; and Isabella.

Charles Forbes died May 5th, 1794, at Corgarff Castle, of which he was governor, and was buried in Strathdon. He was succeeded by his eldest son :

III. Nathaniel Forbes of Auchernach and Dunnottar, Lieut.-General H.E.I. Co., and Colonel of the 84th Regiment of Madras Native Infantry. He was born February 2nd, 1788, and married his first cousin, Sophia, daughter of his uncle, John Forbes, comptroller of Customs, and had by her :

Charles, Captain in the 56th Regiment, who died unmarried in 1885, and is buried in Chelsea old church, where there is a monument to him, stating that " He served in the 4th Queen's own Regt. of Dragoons in the

THE HOUSE OF FORBES

56th Regt. in India and on the General Staff in Bombay." His mother died April 8th, 1857, aged 90, and is buried beside him.

Nathaniel Forbes died in London on August 16th in the same year, having left his estates to his natural son, William Nathaniel.

General Gordon Forbes, seventh son of Nathaniel Forbes of Auchernach, who married Margaret Sullivan, had five sons and five daughters. To the two elder sons there is a monument in Westminster Abbey North Transept.

"To commemorate the early and similar fates of Benjamin John Forbes, late Lieut. in his M. 74th Regt. of Foot and Richard Gordon Forbes late Lieut. in the 1st Regt. of Foot Guards, the eldest sons of Lt. Gen. Gordon Forbes Colonel of the 29th Regt. of Foot, and Margaret his wife eldest daughter of the late Benjamin Sullivan Esq. of Dromanagh in the County of Cork, both of whom fell in the service of their King and country, deeply regretted by their Regiments and the detachments of the Army. The former at the assault of Kistnasherry in East India the 12th Nov. 1791 aged 19 years. The latter near Altenar in North Holland the 19th Sept. 1799 aged 20 years. This monument, no less a tribute of justice to exemplary merit than a record of the tenderest parental sense of filial piety is erected and dedicated A.D. 1803."

The estate of Auchernach now belongs to George F. Rose.

FORBES OF SEATON.

William Forbes of Corriebreck (p. 450), younger son of William of Belnabodach, married Jane Michie and had one son, James Forbes of Seaton, who was the original purchaser of the estate of Newe from the bankrupt Major John Forbes. (See p. 274.) He resold it at the original price to "Bombay Jock," Newe's cousin, who left it to his own nephew, Charles, afterwards the 1st Baronet of Newe.

James Forbes of Seaton married Margaret, daughter of Rear-Admiral William Gordon, and had William Oswald, died unmarried 1794; James, died 1839; and Elizabeth, married to Lieut.-General James Hay, ancestor of the Hays of Seaton.

From this lady are also descended in the female line the cadet branches of Callendar and Rothiemay.

CULTS.

Alistair Cam of Brux had a natural son.

I. John Forbes, married Katherine Coutts, and acquired the lands of Cults, and had two sons, Duncan and John, who both succeeded.

II. Duncan married Marjory Gordon, widow of Thomas Lumsden of Cushnie, by whom he had two daughters. One married William Gordon, the other Duncan Sands.

III. John, brother of Duncan, married Christian Forbes, widow of Alexander Lindsay, and had two sons, John, *o.s.p.*, Duncan, his successor,

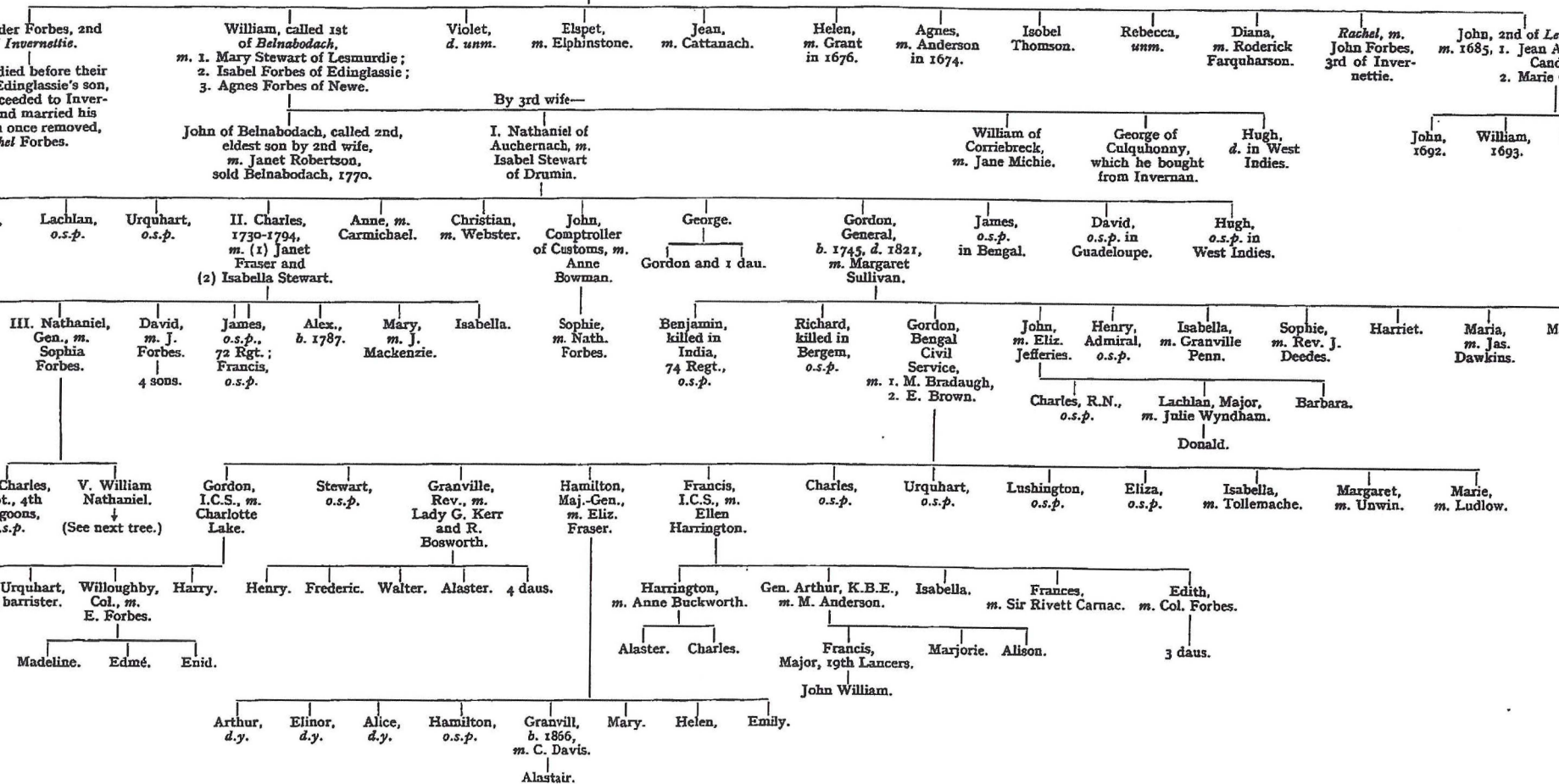
FAMILY TREE

No. 27

INVERNETTIE, LEDMACOY AND BELNABODACH
WITH CADETS OF AUCHERNACH

NO. 27.—INVERNETTIE, LEDMACOV AND BELNABODACH WITH CADETS OF AUCHERNACH.

John Forbes, second son of the 1st Laird of Skellater, owned Invernettie, Belnabodach and Ledmacoy, which he left to his 3 sons. He married first: — Brown; and secondly, Katherine Stewart of Lesmurdie.



and a daughter, Christian. He was killed at Flodden, and his widow married James Douglas of Tillquilly.

IV. Duncan married Margaret Forbes of Towie and had one daughter, Elspet, who succeeded her father in Cults and married Patrick Forbes of Bithnie.

FORBESES IN MORAYSHIRE.

THORNHILL (BRUX).¹

I. Francis Forbes of Thornhill, procurator-fiscal and Provost of Forres, was one of the family of Brux. He acquired the lands of Thornhill in 1616.

He married Agnes Cuthbert, and had one son, Arthur.

II. Arthur, of Thornhill, served heir, March 6th, 1623, and had one son.

III. Francis, served heir October 10th, 1639, had two sons, David and Robert, both students at King's College, Aberdeen.

IV. David, served heir to his father February 14th, 1673, married Grizel Dunbar, and had Arthur, who predeceased his father, and Agnes.

He died in 1696, and was succeeded by his brother.

V. Robert, served heir July 20th, 1697, had a son, Arthur.

VI. Arthur had two sons, Robert and Walter.

VII. Robert sold the property to Urquhart of Burdsyards and died without issue.

Walter Forbes, second son of the 6th Laird of Thornhill, married Margaret Macdonald, by whom he had one son, who went abroad.

Alexander, merchant in Dyke, *o.s.p.*; David, farmer in Ardersier; Ann, married George Fiddes, schoolmaster at Rafford.

David in Ardersier, married Helen Simpson, and had four sons and two daughters:

James, went abroad. David, went to Malta. George, physician in Inverness, married Margaret Welsh and had issue, four sons and one daughter: Margaret, David, drowned at Burghead; William Walsh, surgeon in Inverness; Duncan, went to Canada; George and Charles, both in the Indian medical service. George left generous bequests to his native town of Inverness and erected a fountain and a cabman's shelter.

¹ Alexander, who married Isabella Raff in 1793, is also considered by Colonel Allardyce to belong to this family; he had four sons: Alexander, died in Canada, 1815; George, M.D., died in Bengal; James, British Consul at Havana; and David, died at Macao, 1831.