

ABERCROMBY

OF THAT ILK & MURTHLY

THOMAS DE COCO OF ABERCROMBY, the first established ancestor of the family, was living in 1190 and to whom succeeded :

JOHN DE COCO OF ABERCROMBY, was witness with Richard de Coco of Abercromby, who was in all probability his son, to a charter by John de Dundemor granting his lands of Torbrex to the Priory of the Isle of May dated 1260.¹ He must have *d.* shortly afterwards as this Richard de Coco was dead by October 1270, and was then in full possession of the lands of Abercromby. He was succeeded by :

RICHARD DE COCO OF ABERCROMBY, who, although not styled as such, was in all probability son to John de Coco of Abercromby, and whom he is named immediately after in a donation by John de Dundemor to the Monastery of the Isle of May dated 1260.² He *d.* prior to 25 October 1270, when an inquisition was held into his death³ and was father of :

WILLIAM DE ABERCROMBY OF THAT ILK, succeeded his father on his death and to whom he was served heir on 25 October 1270. He gave homage to King Edward I. of England at Berwick on 28 August 1296⁴ and was father of :

1. John de Abercromby of that Ilk, (*see below*).
2. Humphrey de Abercromby, was, apparently, a son of William de Abercromby of that Ilk. He obtained the lands of Harthill and Ardun, in Aberdeenshire, in around 1315 and had issue from which the families of Pitmeddan, Birkenbog, Glasshaugh, Tulliebody and others descend.

¹ Liber St. Andree. P. 385. See also Records of the Priory of May. P. 21.

² Liber St. Andree. P. 385. See also Records of the Priory of May. P. 21.

³ RH5/28

⁴ Cal. Docs. Scot. Vol. 2. P. 203.

JOHN DE ABERCROMBY OF THAT ILK, who with his father and numerous other landowners from Fife, gave homage to Edward I. of England at Berwick-on-Tweed on 28 August 1296.¹ He was a member of the inquest held at Perth on 31 May 1305, which determined that King Alexander II. granted the barony of Crail to Richard de Beaumont.² He *d.* in around 1340 and was father of :

ALEXANDER DE ABERCROMBY OF THAT ILK AND MURTHLY, was a Sheriff of Perth. He granted a Tack of his lands of Murthly to John Mercer, Burgess of Perth, on 12 May 1363,³ and is said to have *d.* in 1385. He was father of :

SIR JOHN DE ABERCROMBY OF THAT ILK AND MURTHLY, succeeded his father by September of 1404 when he was appointed one of the procurators for John de Mouet of Foulis for his resigning the lands of Fowlis Mouet⁴ and disposed his lands of Balcormo to James de Abercromby on 18 October 1418.⁵ He *d.* very shortly afterwards and was father of :

SIR THOMAS DE ABERCROMBY OF THAT ILK AND MURTHLY, succeeded his father by 1419, when he granted a charter to John de Ireland, son and heir of the deceased Robert de Ireland of Burnbane, for the lands of Burnbane, which was subsequently confirmed by Murdoch, Duke of Albany, 22 March 1423.⁶ He was a member of an inquest held at Cupar to determine the marriage agreement entered into between Sir John Wemyss and Sir Andrew Gray on 6 March 1433,⁷ and was one of the arbiters between Sir John de Ruthven and the Aldermen of Perth to settle the location for the Midsummer fair, on 19 June 1442.⁸ He had a liferent of the lands of Murthly, Essendy and Abercromby reserved

¹ Cal. Docs. Scot. Vol. 2. P. 204.

² Cal. Docs. Scot. Vol. 2. No. 1670.

³ Narrated in the chronicle of Perth circa 1650.

⁴ RH1/2/171

⁵ RMS 1424-1513. No. 20

⁶ Grantully Charters. No. 111.

⁷ GD45/27/104

⁸ B59/26/1/2

to him on 2 June 1446, and appears to have *d.* soon after, certainly by 24 February 1465, being father of :

1. Sir Robert Abercromby of that Ilk and Murthly, (*see below*).
2. Mary Abercromby, *m.* Sir Thomas Maule of Panmure who discharged himself of all sums due by her father upon the marriage on 21 June 1427¹.

SIR ROBERT ABERCROMBY OF THAT ILK AND MURTHLY, had a charter as heir to his father for the lands of Murthly and Essendy, in Perthshire, and Abercromby, in Fife, dated 22 March 1445,² with Sasine following on 2 June 1446. He was witness to charters by : David Ogilvy of Inchmartin for the lands Strathardill in favour of John Stewart of Fortingall, on 28 April, 1473 ; Richard Eviot of Balhousie for the lands of Balhousie in favour of Robert Mercer of Balleif, dated 1 April, 1478, and Alexander Abercromby of that Ilk, his son, for the lands of Ardonuquhey in favour of Sir William Ruthven of that Ilk, dated 7 December 1492. He *d.* between 7 December 1492, and 1 October 1493, and was father of :

1. Alexander Abercromby of that Ilk and Murthly, (*see below*).
2. Mr. Henry Abercromby, was in all probability a younger son of Sir Robert Abercromby, on the basis that he was appointed Tutor to Thomas Abercromby of that Ilk, during his minority and was his nearest male relative. He is styled as Tutor in an action raised by John Stewart, son and heir of the deceased Walter Stewart of Cardney, for having wrongfully apprised his lands of Concraigie, and which was heard by the Lords of Council on 30 March 1501.³ He was an important figure nationally, being consecrated Abbot of Cambuskenneth Abbey in 1466 which he held until his death in 1502, and to whom the King made a gift of the customs of the Abbey for the remainder of his life on 3 March 1499/1500.⁴
3. William Abercromby of Balcormo, had a charter from his father for the lands of Balcormo on 20 October 1493, and *m.* Janet Scrimgeour with whom he had a charter of joint-infertment for the lands of Balcormo under the Great Seal on 18 February 1496.⁵ He *d.* in 1499 and was father of :

¹ Reg. Panmure.

² Grantully Charters. No. 9.

³ Acta Dom Con. Vol. III. P. 9.

⁴ RPS Vol. I. No. 490.

⁵ RMS 1424-1513. No. 2182

- 3a) Helen Abercromby, succeeded her father and was infeft in the half-lands of Balcormo as heir on 10 June 1519.¹ She *m.* Peter Arnot and had issue which succeeded to the lands of Balcormo.
4. Archibald Abercromby, styled as brother to Mr. Henry Abercromby, Abbot of Cambuskenneth, when he received a payment to his brother's account in, in 1498.² He settled in the vicinity of Stirling and had issue, (*see Abercromby of Kersie and Throsk*).
5. Annabella Abercromby, *m.* Andrew Cardney of Foss, (he *d.* in 1507³), and had issue.

ALEXANDER ABERCROMBY OF THAT ILK AND MURTHLY, to whom his father assigned the lands of Murthlie and Abercromby and for which he had a charter of confirmation under the Great Seal on 26 February 1481,⁴ with infeftment following on 30 April.⁵ He had succeeded his father by 1 October 1493, when he was a member of the inquest at the retour of James Haldane as heir to his father, the deceased John Haldane of Gleneagles, his father, in the lands of Gleneagles⁶ and *d.* by March of 1501, when his son Thomas was under the tutelage of Mr. Henry Abercromby, Abbot of Cambuskenneth.⁷ He was father of :

1. Thomas Abercromby of that Ilk and Murthly, (*see below*).
2. Margaret Abercromby, *m.* John Rattray of that Ilk, with whom she had a charter from his father for the lands of Bredwells, Otterburn and Clayhills, in the Barony of Rattray on 15 January, 1507. They had issue.

THOMAS ABERCROMBY OF THAT ILK AND MURTHLY, was under age at his father's death and was under the care of Henry Abercromby, Abbot of Cambuskenneth by March of 1501. He had Sasine for the lands of Abercromby in 1503,⁸ *m.* Margaret Crichton with

¹ GD90/1/106 In which it is stated that the lands had been in ward for 14 years and non-entry for six years since the death of William Abercromby her father, twenty years previously.

² Ex. Rólls. Vol. XI. P. 127.

³ Chronicle of Fortingal

⁴ RMS 1424-1513. No. 1465

⁵ Grantully Charters. No. 20.

⁶ GD198/26

⁷ Acta Dom Con. Vol. III. P. 9.

⁸ Ex. Rolls. Vol. XII. P. 718.

whom he had a charter under the Great Seal for the lands and barony of Abercromby on 19 August 1513,¹ and had letters of regression under the Privy Seal dated 9 May 1516, for a grant of the lands of Balcormo made by his grandfather, Sir Robert Abercromby of that Ilk, to the deceased William Abercromby, his son.² He *d.* at a relatively young age in 1520,³ and was father of :

1. Alexander Abercromby of that Ilk and Murthly, (*see below*).
2. Andrew Abercromby of Urquharts and Pittelpie, had a charter from Patrick Kinninmont of Craighall for the lands of Urquhartis on 17 July, 1557, in which he is styled as brother to Alexander Abercromby of that Ilk.⁴ He had a remission on 25 July 1571, for having acted as messenger and conveyed letters between the Earl of Huntly and other Catholic nobles,⁵ and *m.* after 15 December 1556, Agnes, daughter of Sir John Crichton, 1st of Innernytie, (she was widow of William Ruthven, 1st of Ballindean by whom she had issue).⁶ He was father of :

2a) David Abercromby of Pitelpie, succeeded his father by 20 January 1589, when he was witness to a precept of Clare Constat by James Scrimgeour of Dudhope for the infetment of Janet, Eupham and Agnes Gardens, as heirs to their deceased father David Garden, mariner in Dundee.⁷ He *d.* in October of 1618,⁸ and was father :

2a) Thomas Abercromby of Pittelpy, was served heir to his “fratris avi” (grandfather’s brother) David Abercromby on 12 March 1608,⁹ and had the lands of Pitelpy appraised by Helen Abercromby, relict of James Ross, sailor in Dundee, on a debt of 8,431 merks Scots, by decree dated 30 July 1633.¹⁰ He was father of :

2b) James Abercromby of Pittelpy, who when still heir apparent to his father brought a complaint before the Privy Council against William Jackson, maltman burghess of Dundee, to the effect that on 23 July 1631, he was in

¹ RMS 1424-1513. No. 3879

² RPS Vol. I. No. 2764.

³ Grantully Charters. No. 39. In which the lands of Murthly are stated to have been in non-entry for the space of nine years.

⁴ GD15/575

⁵ RPS Vol. VI. No. 1221

⁶ RD1/2/36

⁷ GD137/737

⁸ CC20/4/7/18

⁹ Retours. Gen. No. 347.

¹⁰ RMS 1634-1651. No. 8.

company with this William in Dundee but on setting out for his father's house at Pittelpy "no sooner, however, had they got out of the town about two pairs of butts that the said William first blindfolded me with my awne cloake, tooke my sword frome me, kuist me to the gorund, boxed me with elbowes and knees upon the breast and shoulders and thairby verie cruellie birsed and bruised me, drew out my awin whinger and thairwith hurt and woundit me on the hand to the effusioun of my blood in great quantitie. He would have killed him had not some persons come to his relief."¹ He is styled as eldest son in the decree of apprising for the lands of Pitelpy dated 30 July 1633, and was father of :

2c) Mr. James Abercromby, who *dsp* in 1668.

2c) William Abercromby, *dsp* in 1663.²

2c) Margaret Abercromby, acted as executor to her brother Mr. James Abercrombie, son of James Abercrombie of Pittelpy, in 1668, and *m.* George Dallas of St. Martins.³ She was buried in the Greyfriars, Edinburgh, on 16 October 1697,⁴ having had issue.

2b) Andrew Abercromby,

3. Mr. John Abercromby, became an Advocate and is styled as brother german to Alexander Abercromby of that Ilk in a Bond he granted to David Moneypenny of Pitmilley and Katherine Lundy, his spouse, on 5 March 1555.⁵ He *m.* Marion, daughter of John Ireland, in whose right he was admitted Burgess of Edinburgh on 16 July 1550,⁶ *d.* in January of 1574⁷ and was father of :

3a) Laurence Abercromby, acted as executor to his father on his death in 1574.

3a) Andrew Abercromby, had a gift of the subchantory of Dunkeld in 1564 and is then styled as son to Mr. John Abercromby, Advocate.⁸

3a) Beatrix Abercromby, *m.* John Logan, son and heir to Mr. John Logan of Craighouse, (*c/m* 6 August 1566⁹), and with whom she had a gift of the non-entry of the lands of Cowston, in the sheriffdom of Fife, on 18 May 1568.¹

¹ Reg. Privy Council. Second Series. Vol. IV. P. 669.

² CC8/8/71

³ GD6/1379

⁴ Greyfriars Burial Register.

⁵ RD1/1/368

⁶ SRS Roll of Edinburgh Burgesses. He is mistakenly entered under the christian name of James.

⁷ Edinburgh Tests

⁸ RPS Vol. V. Pt. I. No. 2039.

⁹ RD1/1/403b

4. David Abercromby, styled as uncle to Thomas Abercromby of Pittelpy, resided at Nevay and *dsp* prior to 12 March 1608, when his nephew Thomas Abercromby of Pittelpy was retoured his heir general.²
5. Margaret Abercromby, *m.* Andrew Anstruther, eldest son and heir of John Anstruther of that Ilk, and had issue.

ALEXANDER ABERCROMBY OF THAT ILK AND MURTHLY, was infeft in the lands of Murthly as heir to his deceased father on 12 May 1529,³ and *m.* Isobel, daughter of Sir John Dischington of Ardross. He resigned the lands of Stenton and Abercromby, to his son and heir, Thomas Abercromby, in October of 1546, had a charter for the lands of Easter Inschewin from John, Bishop of Dunkeld, on 1 October 1574, and is named as one of the curators of Thomas Dischington, heir of Ardross, in a decret arbitral dated 18 September 1578.⁴ He *d.* by 4 March 1581,⁵ and was father of :

1. Thomas Abercromby, younger of that Ilk and Murthly, (*see below*).
2. Margaret Abercromby, *m.* Sir William Stewart of Grantully, (he *m.* secondly, Isabella, daughter of John Stewart, 3rd Earl of Atholl, and had issue), with whom she had a charter of joint-infeftment for the lands of Aberfeldy dated 2 January 1545.⁶

THOMAS ABERCROMBY, YOUNGER OF THAT ILK AND MURTHLY, *m.* Elizabeth Gourlay with whom, on his father's resignation, he had a charter under the Great Seal for the lands of Stenton and Abercromby, in the Sheriffdom of Fife, and those of Murthly, in the Sheriffdom of Perth, dated 18 April, 1546,⁷ with Sasine taken on 27 May following.⁸ He *d. vita patris* shortly before 11 August 1574, when his father and Elizabeth Gourlay, his relict, were infeft in the liferent of the lands of Stenton,⁹ and was father of :

¹ RPS Vol. VI. No. 267.

² Retours. Gen. No. 347.

³ Grantully Charters. No. 39.

⁴ RMS 1546-1580. No. 2980.

⁵ RMS 1594-1608. No. 2304.

⁶ Grantully Charters. No. 51.

⁷ RMS 1546-1580. No. 15.

⁸ Ex. Rolls. Vol. XVIII. P. 400.

⁹ Ex. Rolls. Vol. XX. P. 468.

1. Alexander Abercromby of that Ilk and Murthly, (*see below*).
2. Mr. Thomas Abercromby of Craigie, obtained the lands of Craigie by 17 July 1600, when he is included in a decree of the Lords of Session relating to his possession of the lands of Goodlieburn. He *m.* Elizabeth, daughter of Patrick Kinninmont of that Ilk, (*c/m* 5 & 6 August 1589¹), and was father of :
 - 2a) Robert Abercromby of Craigie, witnessed a charter by Thomas Abercromby of that Ilk granting the lands of Wester Burnbane to Alexander Ireland of Burnbane on 14 March 1614, and is then styled as son of Mr. Thomas Abercromby of Craigie.² He was father of,
 - 3b) Margaret Abercromby, *m.* John Robertson of Stronamuik, (*c/m* 20 November 1627³).
 - 2a) John Abercromby, witnessed a charter by Arthur Ray, servant to Mr. William Scott of Elie, to James Abercromby, sailor and burghess of Dundee, for a tenement in Dundee, on 8 July 1603.⁴
 - 2a) Thomas Abercromby, acted as executor to Thomas Abercromby of that Ilk, on his death in October of 1624.⁵
3. Henry Abercromby, styled as brother of Mr. Thomas Abercromby in an Acquittance by this Thomas on 12 February 1583.⁶
4. Grizel Abercromby, was contracted to marry James Orme, eldest son and heir of Henry Orme of Mugdrum, although this was not fulfilled. His father failed to fulfill his terms of the marriage contract apparently on account of the groom's untimely death and for which he was put to the horn and had his escheat goods gifted by the King to John Brown of Fordell on 3 October 1583.⁷ She subsequently *m.* by 11 April 1590, to George Drummond, 2nd of Blair, when they gave their consent to a charter by John Cumming of Coutie,⁸ and had issue.

ALEXANDER ABERCROMBY OF THAT ILK AND MURTHLY, witness to a charter by John, Bishop of Dunkeld, in favour of Alexander Abercromby of that Ilk, his grandfather, for

¹ Kinninmont Writs. Inventoried by Walter MacFarlane circa 1720.

² RMS 1608-1620. No. 1079.

³ RS50/3/f.204r

⁴ RMS 1594-1608. No. 1482.

⁵ Edinburgh Tests

⁶ RD1/22/41

⁷ RPS Vol. VIII. No. 1528.

⁸ RMS 1580-1592. No. 2104.

the lands of Easter Inchewin, in the lordship of Dunkeld, on 1 October, 1574, and had Sasine for the lands of Murthly on 15 April 1581.¹ He *m.* Euphemia, daughter of Patrick Kinninmont of that Ilk, (*c/m* August of 1574.² She survived him and *m.* secondly, by July of 1610, to Mr. Andrew Sandilands, younger son of James Sandilands of Cruvy³), *d.* by July of 1610 and was father of :

1. Thomas Abercromby of that Ilk and Murthly, (*see below*).
2. Robert Abercromby, witnessed a charter by his brother Thomas Abercromby of that Ilk granting the liferent of the lands of Stenton and Byres of Murthlie in favour of Jean Ogilvy, his spouse, on 9 October 1617.⁴ In 1620, he and his elder brother, Thomas, squabbled with their mother and her second husband, Mr. Andrew Sandilands. This was brought before the Privy Council in that year with the blame for the unrest being that he was “of ane unsalted humour and disposition.” He was accordingly bound to that brother’s company who was to find surety for his good behaviour.⁵
3. Andrew Abercromby, witness to a charter by his brother Thomas Abercromby of that Ilk, granting the lands of Abercromby to Sir William Scott of Elie on 4 January, 1622.
4. Jean Abercromby, *m.* James Stewart, fiar of Balnakeilly, and *dsp.*

THOMAS ABERCROMBY OF THAT ILK AND MURTHLY, succeeded his father and was served heir to his ancestor Alexander Abercromby, son of the deceased Sir Robert Abercromby of that Ilk, on 1 October 1622.⁶ He disposed the lands of Wester Burnbane to Mr Alexander Ireland of Burnbane by charter dated 14 March, 1614, in which he is styled as son and heir of the deceased Alexander Abercromby of that Ilk, and sold the barony of Murthlie to Sir William Stewart of Grantully, the contract of which is dated 8, 9, 10 and 18 July 1615. He *m.* Jean, daughter of Sir John Ogilvy of Craig, (*c/m* 16

¹ Ex. Rólls. Vol. XXI. P. 452.

² RMS 1580-1593. No. 1000. Also cited by MacFarlane in an inventory he made of the Kinninmont writs circa 1710.

³ Reg. Privy Council – 1620.

⁴ RMS 1608-1620. No. 1781.

⁵ Reg. Privy Council – 1620.

⁶ Retours. Gen. No. 1043.

February 1614¹), whom he infeft in a liferent of his lands of Stenton and Murthlie on 9 October 1617,² *d.* in October of 1624,³ and was father of :

1. **ALEXANDER ABERCROMBY OF THAT ILK**, succeeded his father on his death and was served heir to him in the lands of Abercromby on 2 November 1624,⁴ which he resigned in favour of his brother Thomas in June of 1625. He *dsp* prior to 2 October 1632, when his brother Thomas was served his heir.
2. Thomas Abercromby of that Ilk, (*see below*).
3. James Abercromby, to whom his father granted an annualrent of 1500 merks to be uplifted from the lands of Abercromby on 1 December 1618, and is then styled as a son by Jean Ogilvy.⁵ He consented his brother, Thomas's disposing of the Abercrombie in 1635.
4. Laurence Abercromby, named in a complaint by his father against Robert Abercromby, his uncle, in 1620.⁶

THOMAS ABERCROMBY OF THAT ILK, to whom his brother Alexander Abercromby of that Ilk conveyed the lands of Abercromby and for which he had a charter under the Great Seal dated 13 June 1625.⁷ He suffered considerably by a tragic incident that occurred in 1627: "About seven years ago he was waylaid and pursued for his life by the deceased William Martin, son lawful of the deceased Alexander Martin of Gibleston. Martin had been visiting his wife's sister at Anstruther, and on his way home with the complainer, being drunk, he gave complainer a great stroke on the arm with the complainer's own sword, whowas then obliged for safety of his life to draw his dagger and close with the said William, giving him a stroke upon the thigh, wherewith he fell in reid land and, being suffocated with drink, died. The complainer had no intention of injuring the said William whome he loved most interelie, and unto whome he had done sundrie good offices, as namelie he procured unto him frome his eldest brother ane dwelling hous and yaird, and but the day before this unhappy accident the complainer

¹ RMS 1609-1620. No. 1781.

² RMS 1608-1620. No. 1781.

³ Edinburgh Tests.

⁴ Retours. Fife. No. 344.

⁵ RMS 1634-1651. No. 284.

⁶ Reg. Privy Council 1604-1607. P. 357-358.

⁷ RMS 1620-1633. No. 800.

made the same William bailie of the barony of _____ and disposed to him several casualties belonging thereto. Since that time the complainer has resided in Ireland and has caused his friends offer assithement to Isobel Forrester, widow of the deceased William, and to Mr Alexander and Isabel Martin, his children, but they refuse to entertain these. Now, the complainer understanding that at his Majesty's late coronation in Scotland he was graciously pleased to remit all all such sudden slaughters committed before the said coronation if sought within a year and day thereafter and satisfaction were made to the party, he has caused David Walker, burgess of Leslie, as his procurator, to go to the said Isobel and offer and tell down for her to herself, and the bairns and kin of the said William 400 merks in name of assithment and for a letter of slains to be given to him thereon ; but this she refused to do, as an instrument under the hand of John Nicoll, notary in Falkland, will show. Further, on 21st November last, George Abircrombie, as procurator, made the same offer to her on the complainer's behalf, which she likewise refused, as an instrument under the hand of John Mitchell, notary, shows." In 1634, the Privy Council found in his favour and ordered that the assyment be increased to 500 merks and for Martin's widow and kin to issue the letter of slains.¹

All of this, though, appears to have exhausted his estate. He was served heir to both his elder brother, Alexander Abercromby of that Ilk, and his grandfather, Alexander Abercomby of that Ilk, in the lands of Abercromby on 2 October 1632,² which, with consent of his brother, James Abercromby, he disposed to James Crichton in 1635³ with Murthly having been conveyed to Sir William Stewart whom, it is said, took advantage of Thomas's exile to acquire them underhandedly.

¹ Reg Privy Council Second Series Vol. V. P. 243.

² Retours. Fife. Nos. 479 & 480.

³ RMS 1634-1651. No. 284.