

BELSCHEs

OF TOFTS & INNERMAY

1. John Belsches, 1st of Tofts, (*see below*).

2. James Belsches, who was father of :

4a) James Belsches, was served heir to his father James Belsches, brother of the deceased John Belshes of Tofts, Advocate, on 23 October 1649.¹

JOHN BELSCHEs, 1st OF TOFTS, the first of the family to appear in record, is said to have been a younger son of Belsches of that Ilk, although there is no evidence for this. He was admitted an Advocate in 1606, and had a charter dated 13 July 1621, for the barony of Stitchell with the manor and mills, in the sheriffdom of Roxburgh, which he had acquired from Sir Robert Gordon of Lochinvar.² He purchased the lands of Over and Nether Tofts, in the sheriffdom of Berwick, from William Douglas of Tofts, for which he had a charter under the Great Seal dated 12 February 1622,³ and *d.* in September of 1631. He *m.* first, Janet, daughter of Mr. Thomas Craig, Advocate, and by her he was father of :

1. **SIR ALEXANDER BELSCHEs, 2nd OF TOFTS**, *b.* on 25 October 1608, was admitted an Advocate and was appointed one of the Ordinary Lords of Session. He had a charter under on 30 July 1631, for the lands and barony of Tofts on his father's resignation and to whom he was heir in the lands of Pittilsuche on 10 May 1632.⁴ He *m.* on 6 April 1632, Jean, daughter of Mr. John Skene of Halyards, whom, on 12 March 1631,⁵ his father infeft in annualrents from the lands of Tofts in implementation of their contract of marriage, and *dsp* in 1656.

2. Helen Belsches, *m.* John Home of Ninewells, (*c/m* 14 August 1628⁶).

He *m.* secondly, to Marjory Kae by whom he was father of :

¹ Retours. Gen. No. 3568.

² RMS 1620-1633. No. 202

³ RMS 1620-1633. No. 274

⁴ RMS 1620-1633. No. 1832

⁵ RMS 1620-1633. No. 1766

⁶ GD267/27/165/2083.

3. John Belsches, 3rd of Tofts, (*see below*).

JOHN BELSCHES, 3RD OF TOFTS, succeeded his half-brother on his death in 1656 and was infeft in the lands of Tofts on 20 March 1657.¹ He *m.* Ann, daughter of Sir David Aytoun of Kinglassie, younger son of Robert Aytoun, 2nd of Inchdairnie, *d.* in March of 1693, and was buried in Greyfriars, Edinburgh, on the 18th of that month.² He was father of,

1. John Belsches, 4th of Tofts, was served heir general to his father on 21 October 1699,³ and *m.* Janet, daughter of Sir Alexander Swinton of Mersington. He was father of,

1a) Charles Belches, 5th of Tofts, *b.* on 2 February 1697, and was admitted a Burgess of Edinburgh by right of his father, John Belsches, and his grandfather, John Belsches, on 11 March 1730.⁴ He his sold the lands of Tofts to James Campbell, Merchant and Tailor in London, by Disposition dated 2 September 1731.⁵

1a) James Belsches, *b.* on 2 October 1707, and *dsp.*

1a) William Belsches, served as director of the hospital on Fort St David's, in the East Indies, and *m.* on 22 December 1751, Emelia, daughter of John Belsches, 2nd of Innermay,⁶ (she *d.* in 1807). He *d.* at Innermay on 21 October 1753, "leaving an only son, an infant"⁷ :

1b) Sir John Belsches Wishart Stuart of Fettercairn, the only child, was an infant at his father's death in 1753. He purchased the lands of Fettercairn and succeeded his grand-uncle Sir William Stewart of Castlemilk, Baronet, in that Barontecy on his death in 1777. He *m.* on 26 November 1775, Jane, daughter of David Leslie-Melville, 6th Earl of Leven and Melville,⁸ (she *d.* 28 October 1829), *d.* on 5 December 1810, and was father of :

1c) Willamina Wishart Belsches, *b.* at Edinburgh on 7 October 1776, and *m.* on 17 January 1797, Sir William Forbes, 7th Baronet of Pitsligo.⁹ They had issue,

¹ GD158/135.

² Greyfriars Burial Register.

³ Retours. Gen. No. 8156.

⁴ SRS Edinburgh Burgess Roll.

⁵ GD158/136.

⁶ OPR – Edinburgh.

⁷ Scots Magazine, 1st October 1753, edition.

⁸ OPR – Monimail.

⁹ OPR – Edinburgh.

- 1d) **SIR JOHN STUART FORBES, 8TH BARONET OF PITSLIGO AND INNERMAY**, *b.* at Dean House in September of 1804, and succeeded to the lands of Innermay on the death of his cousin Alexander Hepburn Belsches, in 1864. He *m.* at Newbattle on 7 June 1834, to Harriet Louisa Ann, third daughter of 6th Marquis of Lothian,¹ *d.* at Wimpole Street, London, on 28 May 1866,² and was father of an only child :
- 1e) Harriet Wilhelmina Forbes, *b.* at Edinburgh on 17 May 1835.
- 1d) Charles Hay Forbes, *b.* at Edinburgh on 15 October 1806, and served as an officer in the Royal Navy. He *m.* Jemima Rebecca MacDonnell, and *d.* at Canaan Park, Edinburgh, on 5 November 1859,³ leaving issue which succeeded to the Pitsligo Baronetcy.
- 1d) James David Forbes, *b.* on 20 April 1809, and was appointed Professor of Natural Philosophy at the University of Edinburgh. He *m.* Alicia Wauchope and *d.* on 31 December 1868, having had issue.
- 1d) Eliza Forbes, *b.* at Edinburgh on 7 February 1801.
- 1a) Mary Belsches, *b.* on 18 April 1705.
- 1a) Ann Belsches,
- 1a) Helen Belsches, *bap.* on 11 March 1718, and *m.* on 18 July, 1756, to her cousin, Thomas Belsches of Greenyards,⁴ (he was widow of Margaret, daughter of Robert Hepburn of Baads, whom he had *m.* in 1741, and by whom he had issue).
2. Alexander Belsches, 1st of Innermay, (*see below*).
3. William Belsches, *dsp* in Jamaica.
4. Ann Belsches, *m.* on 22 February 1701, Patrick Nisbet of Eastbank.⁵
5. Mary Belsches, *d.* unmarried.

ALEXANDER BELSCHES, 1ST OF INNERMAY, was appointed Principal Clerk of the Shire of Midlothian and acquired the lands of Innermay in 1717. He *d.* at Innermay on Friday

¹ OPR – Newbattle.

² Glasgow Herald, 30th May 1866, edition.

³ Statutory record. See also: Greenock Advertiser, 10th November 1859, edition.

⁴ OPR – Edinburgh.

⁵ OPR – Eccles.

19 April 1745,¹ having *m.* firstly, on 9 February 1696, Emelia, daughter of Sir Thomas Murray of Glendoik,² by whom he was father of :

1. John Belsches, 2nd of Innermay, (*see below*).

2. Thomas Belsches of Greenyards, *bap.* at Edinburgh on 1 October 1702. He served as depute Sheriff Clerk for Edinburgh and was admitted a Burgess of Edinburgh by right of his father and for his good services rendered to the city on 25 July, 1739.³ He *m.* firstly, on 8 November 1741, Margaret, daughter of Robert Hepburn of Baads,⁴ and had issue ; and secondly, on 18 July 1756, Helen, daughter of John Belsches of Tofts.⁵ He was father of :

2a) Alexander Belsches, *b.* on 9 April 1746, was admitted an Advocate and *dsp* prior to 3 February, 1778.

2a) Thomas Belsches, *b.* at Edinburgh on 11 November 1749, and *dsp.*

2a) Robert Belsches of Greenyards, was retoured heir to his brother Alexander Belsches on 3 February 1778, and to his father on 22 July 1783. He *m.* on 11 September 1779, Elizabeth, daughter of George Buchanan of Mount Vernon, (she *d.* at Glasgow on 11 August 1834⁶), and *dsp* on 8 November 1796, with his cousin John Hepburn Belsches of Innermay being served his heir in the lands of Greenyards on 24 March 1797.

3. William Belsches, *b.* on 7 May 1705.

4. Anthony Belsches, *b.* on 4 May 1711, and *dsp* in Bengal prior to 1780.

5. Elizabeth Belsches, *b.* on 28 April 1709.

He *m.* secondly, Margaret, daughter of Sir John Clerk of Pennicuik, and was father of :

6. James Belsches, *b.* on 20 November 1725.

7. William Belsches, *b.* on 3 December 1726.

JOHN BELSCHES, 2ND OF INNERMAY, succeeded his father and was retoured heir in the lands of Innermay and East and West Buttergask on 1 August 1746. He was admitted an

¹ Scots Magazine, 5th April 1745, edition.

² OPR – Edinburgh.

³ SRS. Edinburgh Burgess Roll.

⁴ OPR – Edinburgh. See also: Caledonian Mercury, 23rd November 1741, edition.

⁵ OPR – Edinburgh.

⁶ Perthshire Advertiser. 21st August 1834, edition.

Advocate and succeeded his father in the office of Sheriff Clerk for Edinburgh. He *d.* on 29 December 1777, having *m.* firstly, Mary, daughter and eventual heiress of Daniel Stewart of Fettercairn, (she *d.* in December of 1739), by whom he was father of :

1. Emelia Belsches, *b.* at Edinburgh on 27 December 1729, and *m.* on 22 December 1751, her cousin, William Belsches, Director of the Hospital at Fort St. Davids, East Indies, and later of Tofts,¹ (he *d.* in October of 1753). She *d.* in 1807, and had issue.

He *m.* secondly, on 29 May 1743, Margaret, daughter of Sir William Stewart of Castlemilk,² (she *d.* in 1785), by whom he had further issue :

2. John Hepburn Murray, 3rd of Innermay, (*see below*).

3. Margaret Belsches, *m.* as his second wife, on 31 May 1768, Henry Wedderburn of Gossford, second son of Charles Wedderburn of Gossford,³ and *d.* at Calcutta in July of 1771.⁴

4. Mary Belsches, *b.* at Edinburgh on 15 December 1748, and *m.* on 1 December 1783, Mr. Thomas Snell Jones, Minister of St Giles, Edinburgh,⁵ (he survived her and *m.* secondly, on 30 June 1787, Anne, daughter of George Gardner of the Custom House, Edinburgh ; and *d.* at Liberton Tower on 3 March 1837, in his 83rd year⁶).

JOHN HEPBURN BELSCHES, 3RD OF INNERMAY, returned heir to his father in the lands of Innermay and Buttergask on 6 April 1778. He *m.* in 1777, Mary, daughter and eventual heiress of Sir Patrick Hepburn Murray of Balmanno, (post-nuptial *c/m* 2 June 1778). She *d.* on 12 January 1823⁷), *d.* at Edinburgh on 24 July 1819,⁸ and was father of :

1. Alexander Hepburn Belsches, 4th of Innermay and Balmanno, (*see below*).

¹ OPR – Edinburgh.

² OPR – Edinburgh.

³ OPR – Edinburgh.

⁴ Scots Magazine, 1st March 1772, edition.

⁵ OPR – Edinburgh.

⁶ Perthshire Courier, 16th March 1837, edition.

⁷ Chancery record.

⁸ Inverness Courier, 12th August 1819, edition.

2. John Hepburn Belsches, *bap.* on 13 August 1782, entered the army and was raised to Lieutenant-General. He *dsp* at Edinburgh on 12 January 1863.¹

ALEXANDER HEPBURN BELSCHES, 4TH OF INNERMAY AND BALMANNO, *b.* 22 June 1778, and was retoured heir to his father in the lands of Cleavage on 11 October 1822, and to his mother in the lands of Balmanno, Pitnamoon, Abernethy Patronage, and Fieldie on 1 May 1845. He *dsp* at Invermay on 17 January 1864,² with his estates passing to Sir John Stuart Forbes of Pitsligo, (*see ut supra*).

¹ Statutory record. See also: SC49/31/75

² Statutory record. See also: SC49/31/77