

# BETHUNE

## OF BLEBO & SCOTSCRAIG

**ANDREW BETHUNE, 1<sup>ST</sup> OF BLEBO**, was apprenticed to William Dick, Merchant in Edinburgh, on 10 July, 1616,<sup>1</sup> and became a successful merchant in Edinburgh and Paris. He obtained the lands of Blebo and Overmagask from Peter Hay of Blebo in which he was infest on 9 July, 1649, and is then styled as brother of John Bethune of Balfour.<sup>2</sup> He *m.* Margaret, daughter of Nichol Brown, Merchant in Edinburgh, (she survived him and *m.* secondly by 19 April, 1656, to Mr. Donald Cargill, Minister at Glasgow<sup>3</sup>), and *d.* on 3 June, 1653, being buried at Kemback Kirk on the 6<sup>th</sup> following.<sup>4</sup> He was father of :

1. **ANDREW BETHUNE, 2<sup>ND</sup> OF BLEBO**, *bap.* at Edinburgh on 10 April, 1644, and was served heir to his father in the lands and Barony of Blebo on 9 June, 1657.<sup>5</sup> He *dsp* prior to July of 1662, and was succeeded by his next brother, John.
2. John Bethune of Blebo, (*see below*).
3. David Bethune, *bap.* at Edinburgh on 1 October, 1641, and was booked as apprentice to Charles Charteris, Merchant in Edinburgh, on 21 July, 1669<sup>6</sup>
4. Margaret Bethune, *bap.* at Edinburgh on 11 January, 1643, *m.* at Kemback on 4 December, 1663, to James Lundie of Clatto, and had issue.
5. Mary Bethune, *m.* William Bethune of Craighoodie, second son of Robert Bethune of Bandon, and had issue.
6. Elizabeth Bethune, all of whom are named in a Discharge by their step-father Donald Cargill on 19 April, 1656.<sup>7</sup> She *d.* unmarried.
7. Catherine Bethune, *bap.* at Edinburgh on 17 October, 1647, and *d.* young.

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<sup>1</sup> SRS Register of Edinburgh Apprentices.

<sup>2</sup> GD7/2/3.

<sup>3</sup> GD7/2/43.

<sup>4</sup> Lamont's Diary

<sup>5</sup> Retours. Fife. No. 872.

<sup>6</sup> SRS Register of Edinburgh Apprentices.

<sup>7</sup> GD7/2/4

**JOHN BETHUNE, 3<sup>RD</sup> OF BLEBO**, was infeft in the lands of Blebo as heir to his brother Andrew Beaton of Blebo on 3 July, 1662, and *m.* firstly, Katherine, sister of George Home of Wedderburn, (*c/m* 11 February, 1668<sup>1</sup>), by whom he had issue. He *m.* secondly, in 1676, to Alison, youngest daughter of James Cheap of Ormiston and Rossie, and was father of :

1. James Bethune, 4<sup>th</sup> of Blebo, (*see below*).
2. John Bethune, *m.* at Edinburgh on 15 November, 1696, to Jean, daughter of Mr. James Smollet of Bonhill.<sup>2</sup>
3. Henry Bethune, to whom his mother, Alison Cheap, assigned an annuity.<sup>3</sup> He was served heir of provision to his father 13 January 1711.
4. Mary Bethune, *m.* on 13 August, 1705, to Mr. William Pitcairn, Minister of Colleslie,<sup>4</sup> (he was widow of Jean, daughter of Mr. Thomas Mitchell, Minister of Kilmarnock, and *d.* on 14 May, 1722, aged about forty-nine years), and had issue.
5. Elizabeth Bethune, *m.* on 6 March, 1707, to Mr. William Knox, Minister of Dairsie,<sup>5</sup> son of Rev. Simon Knox, and *d.* on 22 December, 1763. They had issue.
6. Katherine Bethune, *m.* on 2 December, 1707, to Mr. John Stark of Ballindean and Minister of Logie,<sup>6</sup> (he *d.* on 1 July 1748). She *d.* on 29 January 1770, and had issue.

**JAMES BETHUNE, 4<sup>TH</sup> OF BLEBO**, succeeded his father and *m.* Margaret, eldest daughter of James Wemyss of Bogie, (*c/m* 18 & 23 December 1696.<sup>7</sup> She survived him and *m.* secondly, to Philip Hamilton of Kilbrackmont, by whom she had further issue). He *d.* in July of 1708 and was father of :

1. John Bethune, 5<sup>th</sup> of Blebo, (*see below*).

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<sup>1</sup> RS32/4/f.37

<sup>2</sup> OPR – Edinburgh.

<sup>3</sup> MS36929/6/21

<sup>4</sup> OPR – St. Andrews.

<sup>5</sup> OPR – St. Andrews.

<sup>6</sup> OPR – Logie.

<sup>7</sup> GD7/2/22.

2. Henry Bethune of Clatto, *m.* Margaret, daughter of John Craigie of Dunbairnie, and *d.* at St. Andrews on 2 December 1769.<sup>1</sup> He was father of :
  - 2a) John Bethune, *bap.* at St. Andrews on 27 March, 1724.
  - 2a) James Bethune, *bap.* at St. Andrews on 3 August, 1725.
  - 2a) Harry Bethune, *bap.* at St. Andrews on 12 April, 1735.
  - 2a) Mary Bethune, *bap.* at St. Andrews on 26 December, 1726. She *m.* on 25 May, 1749, to Lieutenant-Colonel Harry Patton of Clatto, and to whom her father granted letters of factory on 4 October 1768. She *d.* suddenly, at Clatto House, on 3 July 1775.<sup>2</sup>
  - 2a) Alison Bethune, *bap.* at St. Andrews on 25 March, 1729.
  - 2a) Susan Bethune, *bap.* at St. Andrews on 24 August, 1730. She and her sister Alison were included in an entail for their uncle James Bethune's lands of Nydie in 1747.
3. James Bethune, was apprenticed to Robert Hope, Chirurgeon in Edinburgh on 9 January, 1719,<sup>3</sup> and practiced as a Surgeon at Brentford. He acquired the lands of Nydie which he entailed upon his brothers and their children on 13 May, 1747, and *dsp.*
4. Alison Bethune, who acted joint executor with her brother James, to their father.
5. Margaret Bethune, *m.* John Corstorphine of Nydie, (he was widow of Margaret Philip by whom he had issue), and had issue.

**JOHN BETHUNE, 5<sup>TH</sup> OF BLEBO**, succeeded his father on his death in 1708, and to whom he was served heir on 29 March, 1709, being infeft in the lands of Overmagask as his heir on 6 December, 1720. He *m.* on 1 November, 1724, to Janet, daughter of Henry Scrimgeour, W.S.,<sup>4</sup> (she *d.* at Blebo on 7 March 1778<sup>5</sup>), and *d.* at Blebo on 16 December 1779, in his 81<sup>st</sup> year,<sup>6</sup> being father of :

1. **HENRY BETHUNE, 6<sup>TH</sup> OF BLEBO**, succeeded his father and was infeft in the lands of Overmagask as his heir on 2 June, 1781. He *dsp* at Blebo on 3 February 1782,<sup>7</sup> with his sister, Margaret Bethune, being infeft as his heir in the lands of Over Magask on 27 April 1782,

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<sup>1</sup> Caledonian Mercury. 9<sup>th</sup> December 1769, edition.

<sup>2</sup> Caledonian Mercury. 8<sup>th</sup> July 1775, edition.

<sup>3</sup> SRS Register of Edinburgh Apprentices.

<sup>4</sup> OPR – Edinburgh.

<sup>5</sup> Scots Magazine, 1<sup>st</sup> March 1778, edition.

<sup>6</sup> Scots Magazine. 6<sup>th</sup> December 1779, edition.

<sup>7</sup> Scots Magazsine, 1<sup>st</sup> February 1782, edition.

2. George Bethune, named with his sisters, in the entail for the lands of Nydie in 1747 and was apprenticed to Peter Adie, Surgeon in Edinburgh, on 5 July, 1758. He *dsp* prior to April of 1782.
3. Margaret Bethune of Blebo, (*see below*).
4. Agnes Bethune,
5. Elizabeth Bethune,
6. Janet Bethune,

**MARGARET BETHUNE, 7<sup>TH</sup> OF BLEBO**, acted as executor to her brother Henry Bethune of Blebo, and to whom she was served heir on 19 March 1782. As heir of her brother Henry, she was infeft in the lands of Over Magask on 27 April, 1782. She *m.* first, Sir William Sharp, 6<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Scotsraig, and had issue :

1. Alexander Sharp Bethune of Blebo, (*see below*).

She survived him and *m.* secondly, at Blebo on 25 August 1782, to William Chalmers, 3<sup>rd</sup> of Raddernie and Principal Clerk of Session,<sup>1</sup> (*c/m* 24 August, 1782<sup>2</sup>), whom, upon marriage, assumed the name and arms of Bethune of Blebo. She *d.* at Edinburgh on 26 January 1791,<sup>3</sup> her husband afterwards being retoured her heir in the lands of Blebo. He *m.* secondly, on 29 March 1792, to Isobel, daughter and James Morrison of Naughton,<sup>4</sup> and sister and heiress of William Maxwell Morrison, Captain in the 77<sup>th</sup> regiment of Foot, (she was retoured heir to her brother in part of the barony of Naughton on 26 September 1805), *d.* on 28 February 1807,<sup>5</sup> and was father of :

2. Isabella Maxwell Bethune, *bap.* at Kemback on 25 August, 1794.

**ALEXANDER SHARP BETHUNE OF BLEBO**, *bap.* at Blebo on 20 August, 1771, and was serving as a Captain in the 49th Regiment by 20 June, 1795, when he was included in an

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<sup>1</sup> Scots Magazine, 1<sup>st</sup> August 1782, edition.

<sup>2</sup> GD7/2/24.

<sup>3</sup> Caledonian Mercury, 29<sup>th</sup> January 1791, edition.

<sup>4</sup> Caledonian Mercury, 31<sup>st</sup> March 1792, edition.

<sup>5</sup> Scots Magazine, 1<sup>st</sup> March 1807, edition.

entail by his step-father William Chalmers or Bethune of Blebo for the lands of Blebo.<sup>1</sup> He was taken prisoner during the Napoleonic Wars and is said to have spent some years in prison, later being raised to the rank of Lieutenant-General. In 1815 he was authorised by the Prince Regent to assume the surname of Bethune and to succeed to the Blebo estate in terms of the will of his late uncle Henry Bethune of Blebo.<sup>2</sup> He *m.* on 20 April 1820, to Maria, daughter of Robert Low of Clatto,<sup>3</sup> (she *d.* at Edinburgh on 24 January 1886<sup>4</sup>), *d.* at Blebo on Tuesday 28 December 1847,<sup>5</sup> and was father of :

1. Alexander Bethune of Blebo, (*see below*).

2. Robert Bethune of Nydie, *b.* in July of 1827, and entering the army, was gazetted in the 92<sup>nd</sup> Highlanders in 1845. He served in the Crimean War and then in India where he saw active service and was twice mentioned in despatches. He retired from service in 1859 and afterwards served as an officer in the Fife Militia. He *m.* at Turnbridge Wells on 24 January 1865, to Mary Louisa, daughter of Captain William Amherst Hale, 52<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry,<sup>6</sup> and *d.* at his residence in Earl's Court, London, in July of 1904, aged 77 years. He was father of :

2a) Henry Alexander Bethune of Montquhannie, *b.* at St. Andrews on 12 July 1866, and entered the army, enlisting in the Middlesex Regiment in 1886, as a Private. In 1893, he obtained a Commission in the Gordon Highlanders served as a Major and then Colonel in that regiment. He *m.* at London on 2 September 1902, to Elinor Mary, third daughter of J. B. Watt, Sydney,<sup>7</sup> (she *d.* at Bridge of Earn Hospital on Saturday 25 June 1955<sup>8</sup>), *d.* at Cupar on 16 January 1946,<sup>9</sup> and was father of :

2b) Mary Sharp Bethune, *m.* at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on Saturday 5 October 1929, to Lieutenant Colonel Harry Francis Keir Wedderburn,<sup>10</sup> (he *d.* in 1943), and had issue.

2a) A son, who was still-born at St. Andrews on 11 October 1868.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> GD7/2/2.

<sup>2</sup> Caledonian Mercury. 28<sup>th</sup> September 1815, edition.

<sup>3</sup> OPR – St. Andrews.

<sup>4</sup> Fife Herald. 27<sup>th</sup> January 1886, edition.

<sup>5</sup> Aberdeen Journal. 5<sup>th</sup> January 1848, edition.

<sup>6</sup> Morning Advertiser, 27<sup>th</sup> January 1865, edition.

<sup>7</sup> Aberdeen Journal. 10<sup>th</sup> September 1902, edition.

<sup>8</sup> Fife Herald, 29<sup>th</sup> June 1955, edition.

<sup>9</sup> Statutory Record. See also Dundee Evening Telegraph. 16<sup>th</sup> January 1946, edition.

<sup>10</sup> Statutory record. See also: The Scotsman, 7<sup>th</sup> October 1929, edition.

- 2a) Robert Bethune, *b.* on 2 August 1874.
- 2a) Eleanor Mary Bethune, *b.* on 27 July 1867, and *m.* at Earl's Court, London, in September 1901, to Captain Frederick Campbell Maconchy, East Yorkshire Regiment.<sup>2</sup> She *d.* at Torquay on 5 May 1936.<sup>3</sup>
- 2a) Louisa Cecilia Bethune, *b.* at St. Andrews on 17 November 1869, and *m.* in 1903, to Lieutenant Colonel William Crawford Middleton, (he was widow of Helen Francis Arbuthnot by whom he had issue, and *d.* at Barham, near Cupar, on 2 April 1929<sup>4</sup>).
- 2a) Jane Millicent Bethune, *b.* on 16 December 1870, and *d.* unmarried on 19 August 1954.<sup>5</sup>
- 2a) Anne Hamilton Bethune, *b.* on 21 November 1871.
- 2a) Margaret Bethune, *b.* on 8 August 1873, and *m.* in October 1900, to Francis Walter Boyd.
3. Susan Bethune, *b.* on 18 June 1821.
4. Margaret Bethune, *bap.* at Kemback on 31 January 1823, and *m.* at Edinburgh on 25 March 1857, to George Patton, Lord Glenalmond,<sup>6</sup> (he *d.* on 20 September 1869).

**ALEXANDER BETHUNE OF BLEBO**, *bap.* at Kemback on 11 August 1824, and succeeded his father in the lands of Blebo on his death in 1847 which he afterwards sold in 1899. He *m.* at Tay Street, Dundee, on 18 September 1849, to Margaret, fourth daughter of John Maxwell,<sup>7</sup> (she *d.* at Bideford on 2 December 1890<sup>8</sup>), *d.* at Castlandhill, Inverkeithing, on 10 May 1900,<sup>9</sup> and was father of :

1. Alexander Bethune of Blebo, (*see below*).
2. Mary Elizabeth Bethune, *b.* on 12 February 1851, and *d.* unmarried at Elie on Saturday 28 May 1932.<sup>10</sup>
3. Maria Bethune, *b.* on 13 September 1855, and *m.* at Cupar Episcopal Church on 22 July 1880, to David Gillespie, younger of Montquhannie.<sup>1</sup> She *dsp* at St. Andrews on 9 July 1938.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Fife Herald, 15<sup>th</sup> October 1868, edition.

<sup>2</sup> Aberdeen Journal. 25<sup>th</sup> September 1901, edition.

<sup>3</sup> St. Andrews Citizen, 16<sup>th</sup> Ma 1936, edition.

<sup>4</sup> Dundee Courier, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1929, edition.

<sup>5</sup> St. Andrews Citizen, 21<sup>st</sup> August 1954, edition.

<sup>6</sup> Statutory record.

<sup>7</sup> Greenock Advertiser, 21<sup>st</sup> September 1847, edition.

<sup>8</sup> Exeter and Plymouth Gazette. 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1890, edition.

<sup>9</sup> Statutory record. See also Dundee Courier. 14<sup>th</sup> May 1900, edition.

<sup>10</sup> Statutory record. See also: The Scotsman, 30<sup>th</sup> May 1932, edition.

**SIR ALEXANDER SHARP BETHUNE, 9<sup>TH</sup> BARONET OF SCOTSCRAIG**, the only son, was *b.* on 21 March 1860, and in 1916, he successfully petitioned to be recognised as heir male to the Sharp of Scotsraig Baronetcy. He *m.* at St. John's Church, Kensington, London, on 8 November 1889, to Elizabeth Carnegie, third daughter of Frederick Lewis Maitland Heriot of Ramorgnie,<sup>3</sup> (she *d.* at London in March 1935<sup>4</sup>), *d.* at Tadworth on 31 March 1917,<sup>5</sup> and was father of :

**SIR ALEXANDER MAITLAND SHARP BETHUNE, 10<sup>TH</sup> BARONET**, *b.* on 28 May 1909, succeeded his father in the Baronetcy in 1917, and *m.* in 1955, to Mary, daughter of James Hurst Hayes. He *d.* without male issue on 20 May 1997, when the Baronetcy once again became dormant, and was father of :

1. Lucy Sharp Bethune,

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<sup>1</sup> Statutory record. See also Dundee Courier. 24<sup>th</sup> July 1880, edition.

<sup>2</sup> Statutory record. See also: St. Andrews Citizen, 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1938, edition.

<sup>3</sup> Dundee Weekly News, 16<sup>th</sup> November 1889, edition.

<sup>4</sup> Fife Free Press. 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1935, edition.

<sup>5</sup> Surrey Mirror. 10<sup>th</sup> April 1917, edition.