

# BRUCE

## OF EARLSHALL

**SIR ALEXANDER BRUCE, 1<sup>ST</sup> OF EARLSHALL**, was a younger son of Alexander Bruce, 3<sup>rd</sup> of Airth. He had a charter for the lands of Glassingal from Malcolm Kinbuck of that Ilk on 7 June, 1454, which he sold to Sir John Drummond of Cargill on 8 September following and is styled as uncle of Robert Bruce of Stenhouse, in 1485.<sup>1</sup> On 9 February 1485, he had a granted from the King of the lands of Birgheam, in the sheriffdom of Berwick, which had fallen to the Crown on the forfeiture of Alexander Stewart, Duke of Albany, and is then styled the King's "dilecto familiario Armigero."<sup>2</sup> He afterwards exchanged these lands for those of Maw, Orwell, Kinnesswood and Balmain with Alexander Home of that Ilk on 24 May 1490, and consolidating his estate in Fife, he had a charter under the Great Seal confirming the resignation made in his favour by Alexander Monypenny of the lands of Leuchar-Monypenny, dated 1 July 1495, with remainder to himself and the heirs male of his own body, which failing, by Edward Bruce, his brother, and his heirs male of his body, which failing, by Robert Bruce of Stenhouse, his brother's son [filio fratris], and the heirs male of his body, which failing, by Lucas Bruce, his brother, and his foresaids, which failing, by Robert Bruce, also his brother, and his foresaids, which failing by Alexander's nearest heir male of the name and arms of Bruce.<sup>3</sup>

Of his life and career, in his chronicle Pitscottie states that Sir Alexander Bruce was serving in France in 1485 and that he and a Captain Henderson were sent by the French King to England to bolster the Earl of Richmond's army they being "twa Scoittis captanes, his companions, quhome he was brocht up with all in cumpanie in France, to wit Alexander Bruce Knycht of Erleshall, and Captain Henderson, any borne man of Haddingtonne." Adding to the story, Pitscottie continues that at the battle of Bosworth

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<sup>1</sup> RMS 1424-1513. No. 1628.

<sup>2</sup> GD11/18

<sup>3</sup> RMS 1424-1513. No. 2258.

fought on 22 August 1485, Sir Alexander led the horse while Henderson had the command of the foot. This has been considered questionable however on 7 March 1485-86, King Henry VII., granted an annuity of 20*l* to Sir Alexander Bruce “in gracious remembrance of his good, faithful and approved services, and his great labours in various ways heretofore, and lately done in person by the King’s command, and still continued to the King’s ceertain knowledge.”<sup>1</sup> On 12 June 1502, he had a grant from James IV. of £40 annually for life *pro servitio regi impendendo*<sup>2</sup> and *d.* after May of 1505 when he received payment of £20 of his pension,<sup>3</sup> and prior to 7 September following, when the King made a payment of 14 shillings for “Schir Alexander Brus saule mes.”<sup>4</sup>

He *m.* firstly, Marjory, daughter of Malcolm Kinbuck of that Ilk,<sup>5</sup> by whom he had no apparent issue, and secondly, by 28 March 1496-97, to Janet, daughter of John Stewart of Craigiehall, when they had a charter on his own resignation for the lands of Earlshall, Prusk and Maw to themselves and the heirs male between them<sup>6</sup> and was father of :

1. Sir William Bruce, 2<sup>nd</sup> of Earlshall, (*see below*).
2. Agnes Bruce, named with her mother and sisters, Helen, Janet and Margaret in a dispute which had existed between their deceased father and George, Lord Seton, relating to the mill lands of Winchburgh which was settled in their favour and confirmed under the Great Seal on 12 October 1506.<sup>7</sup> She *m.* by 9 August, 1542, to John Trail of Blebo, (he *d.* on 4 June, 1580), and had issue.
3. Helen Bruce, *m.* by 28 May, 1529, to William Ramsay of Brackmonth, (he was *k.* at the battle of Pinkiecleuch in September of 1547), and had issue.
4. Janet Bruce, *m.* by 3 September, 1530, to Andrew Balfour of Montquhany, when they had a joint charter for the lands of Strathor,<sup>8</sup> and had issue
5. Margaret Bruce, *m.* Patrick Kinninmont of Callinch.

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<sup>1</sup> Cal. Docs. Scot. Vol. III. No. 1518.

<sup>2</sup> RMS 1424-1513. No. 2653.

<sup>3</sup> Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer. Vol. III. P. 117.

<sup>4</sup> Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer. Vol. III. P. 64.

<sup>5</sup> Laings Charters No. 43

<sup>6</sup> RMS 1424-1513. No. 2346.

<sup>7</sup> RMS 1424-1513. No. 2995.

<sup>8</sup> RMS 1514-1546. No. 964.

**SIR WILLIAM BRUCE, 2<sup>ND</sup> OF EARLSHALL**, was underage at the time of his father's death and to whom his uncle Edward Bruce and Janet Stewart, styled as relict of his father, were appointed tutors.<sup>1</sup> He had Sasine of the lands of Cowbaky, Straburne and others on 26 May 1514<sup>2</sup> ; Birgham on 11 April 1519,<sup>3</sup> and Earlsall on 23 October 1528,<sup>4</sup> and is styled as eldest son and heir to the deceased Janet Stewart, daughter of the deceased John Stewart of Craigiehall, on 10 February, 1569.<sup>5</sup> He *m.* Margaret, eldest daughter of Alexander Meldrum of Seggie, with whom he had a charter for the lands of Mains of Langbirgham, in the Sheriffdom of Berwick, under the Great Seal on 12 August, 1539. He *d.* on 28 January, 1584,<sup>6</sup> and was father of :

1. Peter Bruce, younger of Earlsall, (*see below*).
2. Robert Bruce of Pitlithie, (*see Bruce of Pitlithie*).
3. William Bruce, was charged with taking possession of the place of Pitlithie from Janet Dundas, relict of Robert Bruce, of Pitlithie, in 1603.<sup>7</sup>
4. Janet Bruce, *m.* Robert Arnot of that Ilk, and had issue.
5. Margaret Bruce, *m.* Alexander Forsyth of Nydie.<sup>8</sup>
6. Agnes Bruce, *m.* John Scrimgeour of Kirkton, (he *d.* in 1580), *d.* in 1590 and had issue.

**PETER BRUCE, YOUNGER OF EARLSHALL**, is styled as heir to his father when he represented his father in an assise called concerning his father's rights to the lands of Mylntoun of Leuchars on 14 October, 1553, and *m.* by 11 February, 1537, Agnes, daughter and coheir of James Scrimgeour of Dudhope, when a Precept was issued for their infetment in the lands of Balrudie.<sup>9</sup> He *d. vitae patris* by February of 1579 and was father of :

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<sup>1</sup> GD20/1/6 See also: Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer. Vol. III. P. 238.

<sup>2</sup> Ex. Rolls. Vol. XIV. P. 549.

<sup>3</sup> Ex. Rolls. Vol. XIV. P. 619.

<sup>4</sup> Ex. Rolls. Vol. XV. P. 670.

<sup>5</sup> Acts & Decrees XLV P.17

<sup>6</sup> Leuchars Inscription

<sup>7</sup> Reg. Privy Council – 1603.

<sup>8</sup> St. Andrews Tests

<sup>9</sup> Scrimgeour Inventory.

1. Alexander Bruce, 3<sup>rd</sup> of Earlshall, (*see below*).
2. Agnes Bruce, *m.* David Nairn of Sandford, (he *m.* secondly Anna, daughter of Robert Bruce, 1<sup>st</sup> of Pitlethie, and had issue), and had issue.

**ALEXANDER BRUCE, 3<sup>RD</sup> OF EARLSHALL**, succeeded his father and had a charter from her father for the lands of one-third of Cowbacky and Balcunze, one-ninth part of the lands of Pursk, the third-part of the lands of Mylntoun, Auldmuris, with the fishing, Wester Fotheris and Nethermuris, and the third-part of the lands of Fordell on 3 March, 1572, in which he is styled as eldest son and heir of Peter Bruce, eldest son and heir of Sir William Bruce, of Earlshall.<sup>1</sup> He entailed his third-part of the barony of Leuchars in favour of William, his son, and his heirs, which failing, to Robert Bruce of Pitlethy, his father's brother, and his heirs, which failing, to Mr. Robert Bruce, lawful son of Sir Alexander Bruce of Airth, and his heirs, which failing, to John, Alexander and Robert, successively brothers to the said Mr. Robert on 1 March 1588-9.<sup>2</sup> He *d.* in 1599 having *m.* firstly, by 3 March 1572, to Euphemia, daughter of John Leslie, 1<sup>st</sup> of Parkhill, (she *d.* on 4 March, 1588<sup>3</sup>), when they had a charter from his grandfather, Sir William Bruce, for parts of the barony of Leuchars-Monypenny, the third-part of the lands of Fordel and Strathburne, to be held by them jointly in fee,<sup>4</sup> and by whom he was father of :

1. Sir William Bruce, 4<sup>th</sup> of Earlshall, (*see below*).
2. Janet Bruce, *m.* David Ramsay of Brackmonth, (*c/m* 7 May, 1602<sup>5</sup>).

He *m.* secondly, after March of 1588, Janet, daughter of Alexander, Lord Elphinstone, (she was *b.* on 10 March, 1535, and was widow of Robert Leslie, 1<sup>st</sup> of Findressie, by whom she had issue), by whom he had no apparent issue.

**SIR WILLIAM BRUCE, 4<sup>TH</sup> OF EARLSHALL**, had a resignation from his father for the the lands and barony of Leuchars-Money penny which was confirmed under the Great Seal on

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<sup>1</sup> RMS. 1546-1580. No. 213

<sup>2</sup> GD152/168

<sup>3</sup> Edinburgh Tests

<sup>4</sup> RMS 1546-1580. No. 2131.

<sup>5</sup> GD82/10

22 March, 1589, with remainder to himself and the heirs male of his own body, which failing, by Robert Bruce of Pitlithie, his uncle, and the heirs male of his own body, which failing, by Mr. Robert Bruce, son of Sir Alexander Bruce of Airth, and his foresaids, which failing, by John Bruce, his brother, and his foresaids, which failing, by Alexander Bruce, his brother, which failing by the nearest legitimate heirs male of the said Mr. Robert bearing the arms and name of Bruce.<sup>1</sup> He succeeded his father in the lands of Earlsall on his death in 1599, and was served heir general to his great-great-grandfather, Sir Alexander Bruce, on 24 February 1630.<sup>2</sup> He *d.* in 1636, having *m.* firstly, Elizabeth, daughter of Andrew Wood, of Largo, (*c/m* 22 May, 1594), by whom he was father of :

1. Andrew Bruce, 5<sup>th</sup> of Earlsall, (*see below*).
2. Alexander Bruce of Wester Abden, (*see Bruce of Wester Abden*).

He *m.* secondly on 21 June, 1614, Agnes Lindsay,<sup>3</sup> (*she d.* in 1635), and by her he was father of :

3. John Bruce, apprenticed to Andrew Manson, Writer in Edinburgh, for three years on 11 July, 1631,<sup>4</sup> and *m.* on 20 December, 1644, Euphemia, daughter of John Aytoun of Kinnaldie.<sup>5</sup>
4. Robert Bruce, appointed Minister of Ballingry and *m.* on 9 June, 1642, Anna, daughter of Michael Seaton, Merchant in Burntisland, (*she was widow of Patrick Bonar, younger son of William Bonar, 7<sup>th</sup> of Rossie*). He *d.* in December of 1668 and was father of :
  - 4a) Thomas Bruce, who is said to have settled in Essex and to have *d.* in 1750.<sup>6</sup>
  - 4a) Anna Bruce, *m.* Andrew Bruce, 6<sup>th</sup> of Earlsall, (*he was widow of Helen, daughter of James Reid, 1<sup>st</sup> of Pitlithie, whom he had m. on 30 January, 1655, and by whom he had issue*), and had issue.
  - 4a) Helen Bruce, *m.* John Bruce, Minister of Portmoak, (*c/m* 12 December, 1666. He *m.* secondly, to Elizabeth Leighton and *d.* on 28 September, 1695).

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<sup>1</sup> RMS 1580-1593. No. 1646.

<sup>2</sup> Retours. Gen. No. 1575.

<sup>3</sup> OPR – Dunfermline.

<sup>4</sup> SRS Register of Edinburgh Apprentices.

<sup>5</sup> OPR – St. Andrews.

<sup>6</sup> Douglas's Baronage Vol. I. P. 512

**ANDREW BRUCE, 5<sup>TH</sup> OF EARLSHALL**, had a charter for the fee of his father's extensive lands in implementation of his marriage to Helen Gray on 27 September, 1627, and succeeded his father on his death in 1636. He *m.* Helen, daughter of Patrick, 6<sup>th</sup> Lord Gray, (*c/m* at Dundee on 11 September, 1622<sup>1</sup>), *d.* by December of 1665 and had issue :

1. Andrew Bruce, 6<sup>th</sup> of Earlshall, (*see below*).
2. George Bruce, *bap.* at St. Andrews on 22 February, 1640.
3. Alexander Bruce, was a steady adherant of the Royalist cause and was taken prisoner at the battle of Worcester in 1651 following which he was confined to the Tower of London for two years. Upon his release he *m.* Margaret, daughter of Captain Brooks, Commander of the Swallow, and settled at Bandon, in Ireland.
4. Jean Bruce, *bap.* at St. Andrews on 8 March, 1639.
5. Elizabeth Bruce, *m.* in around 1654, William Bruce, 2<sup>nd</sup> of Pitairthie, and had issue.
6. Helen Bruce, *m.* John Meldrum.

**ANDREW BRUCE, 6<sup>TH</sup> OF EARLSHALL**, had a Precept from the Chancery for his infeftment the lands of Earlshall as heir to his deceased father on 27 December, 1665,<sup>2</sup> and *d.* in August of 1695<sup>3</sup> having *m.* firstly on 30 January, 1655, to Helen, daughter of James Reid of Pitlethie,<sup>4</sup> (she was widow of Charles Arnot, younger of that Ilk, whom she had *m.* by *c/m* 13 June, 1643,<sup>5</sup> and who had *d.* in January of 1652<sup>6</sup> and by whom she had issue), and was father of :

1. **ANDREW BRUCE, 7<sup>TH</sup> OF EARLSHALL**, succeeded his father and *dsp* prior to February of 1704.
2. Robert Bruce, 8<sup>th</sup> of Earlshall, (*see below*).
3. William Bruce, *bap.* at St. Andrews on 7 January, 1669, and was apprenticed to John Marjoribanks, Merchant in Edinburgh, on 19 October, 1687.<sup>7</sup>
4. Anne Bruce,

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<sup>1</sup> RMS 1620-1633. No. 370.

<sup>2</sup> RH15/28/15

<sup>3</sup> Date of death given in the retour of his second son and eventual heir Robert Bruce in 1704.

<sup>4</sup> OPR – Burntisland.

<sup>5</sup> RMS 1634-1651. No. 139

<sup>6</sup> St. Andrews Test

<sup>7</sup> SRS Register of Edinburgh Apprentices.

5. Helen Bruce,
6. Elizabeth Bruce,
7. Margaret Bruce, all of which daughters were retoured heir to their father on 10 November, 1713. She *m.* Samuel Nairn, Minister of Moonzie, third son of Sir Thomas Nairn of Sandford, (he *d.* on 28 December, 1720), *d.* on 16 December, 1719, and had issue.

He *m.* secondly, to Anna, daughter of Mr. Robert Bruce, Minister of Ballingry, and had further issue :

8. Alexander Bruce, *bap.* at Leuchars on 11 October, 1673, and was retoured heir to his mother on 22 December, 1698.<sup>1</sup> He became an Advocate in which capacity he had an Obligation from his brother Robert Bruce on 11 March, 1704.<sup>2</sup> He *m.* at Edinburgh on 24 April, 1698, Janet, daughter of William Home, Merchant in Edinburgh,<sup>3</sup> and *d.* on August, 1729.
9. David Bruce, *bap.* at Leuchars on 6 October, 1674.

**ROBERT BRUCE, 8<sup>TH</sup> OF EARLSHALL**, *b.* in 1667, was retoured heir to his father in the lands of Leuchars on 8 February, 1704, and in which he was infeft on 3 May following. He *m.* at Edinburgh on 23 February, 1701, Margaret, daughter of Hamilton of Monkland, (she was widow of Mungo Lockhart of Harwood), in which entry he is styled as brother to the Laird of Earlsall, *d.* in February of 1708 and was father of :

1. **HELEN BRUCE, 9<sup>TH</sup> OF EARLSHALL**, succeeded her father in the lands of Earlsall and *m.* firstly at Edinburgh on 2 April, 1722, David Baillie,<sup>4</sup> son of James Baillie, W.S. by his wife Anne, daughter of George Livingston of Saltcoats, who succeeded to the lands of Earlsall, (he *d.* in April of 1724<sup>5</sup>), and had issue. She *m.* secondly James Henderson, third son of Sir William Henderson of Fordell, (he was *b.* on 16 January 1686), and by whom she had no issue ; and thirdly, Walter Wemyss of Lathockar, (he was *bap.* at Cameron on 12 December 1703), and *d.* at Earlsall on Sunday 16 January 1774.<sup>6</sup> By her first husband she had issue :

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<sup>1</sup> Retours. Gen. No. 8048.

<sup>2</sup> CC20/11/

<sup>3</sup> In which entry he is styled as son of the deceased Andrew Bruce of Earlsall

<sup>4</sup> OPR – Edinburgh. “David Baillie, son of Mr. James Baillie, WS, in N.K. Parish and Helen Bruce, daughter of the late Robert Bruce of Earlsall.”

<sup>5</sup> St. Andrews Tests

<sup>6</sup> Caledonian Mercury, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1774, edition.

- 1a) Baillie Bruce, who was a minor at the time of his father's death in 1724 and was placed under the care of his paternal uncle Robert Baillie, Merchant in Edinburgh. He was served his father's heir on 16 November 1724, and *d.* in infancy with his uncle Robert Baillie, Merchant in Edinburgh, being served his heir on 14 April 1725.
2. Elizabeth Bruce, *d.* unmarried in 1752.
3. Margaret Bruce, *m.* Captain William Henderson, third son of Sir William Henderson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baronet of Fordell, (he *m.* secondly, Margaret, daughter of Thomas Graham of Greigston).

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