

# BRUCE

## OF ABDEN, GRANGEHILL & FALKLAND

**ALEXANDER BRUCE OF WESTER ABDEN**, is styled as brother to Andrew Bruce of Earlshall when both were witnesses to a charter by David Kinnear of that Ilk granting a liferent of his lands to his wife, Jean, daughter of Mr. Thomas Douglas of Staneypath, dated 22 September 1622.<sup>1</sup> He *m.* by 16 May 1631, to Janet, daughter and heiress of John Kirkcaldy of Abden, when he was included with her and her parents, John Kirkcaldy of Abden and Janet Cunningham, his spouse, in a charter for the lands of Cullello with remainder to Alexander and Janet and their legitimate heirs whatsoever,<sup>2</sup> *d.* on 15 August, 1645, and was father of :

1. **JOHN BRUCE, OF WESTER ABDEN**, succeeded his father and became a Bailie in Kinghorn. He *m.* Christian Brown and *d.* in November of 1690 being father of :

1a) Margaret Bruce, *bap.* at Kinghorn on 7 February, 1658, and *m.* Captain George Boswell, third son of David Boswell of Balmutto, who, by her right, succeeded to the lands of Wester Abden. They had issue.

1a) Jean Bruce, *bap.* at Kinghorn on 11 December, 1659.

1a) Christian Bruce, *bap.* at Kinghorn on 2 August, 1661.

1a) Janet Bruce, *bap.* at Kinghorn on 15 May, 1664.

1a) Agnes Bruce, *bap.* at Kinghorn on 4 August, 1667.

1a) Catherine Bruce, *bap.* at Kinghorn on 4 October, 1668.

2. Robert Bruce, (*see below*).

3. William Bruce, *b.* on 19 October, 1640.

4. Alexander Bruce, *b.* on 3 October, 1642.

5. Andrew Bruce, was apprenticed to Thomas Thomson, Merchant in Edinburgh on 23 May, 1649,<sup>3</sup> and afterwards became a Merchant in Edinburgh. He *m.* firstly, Agnes, daughter of

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<sup>1</sup> RMS 1608-1620. No. 2221.

<sup>2</sup> RMS 1608-1620. No. 2095.

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

George Calendar, Minister of Clenarnie, Co. Antrim, (*c/m* 2 Februy, 1655.<sup>1</sup> She was buried at Greyfriars, Edinburgh, on 9 January, 1670<sup>2</sup>), and had issue ; secondly to Agnes, daughter of William Scott of Mangerston, (*c/m* 25 May, 1670.<sup>3</sup> She survived him and *m.* secondly on 12 August 1705, to Sir John Foulis, 3<sup>rd</sup> of Ravelston, who was then widow of Margaret, daughter of Sir Archibald Primrose of Carrington ; Anna, daughter of Walter Dundas of that Ilk, and also of Mary, daughter of John Murray of Polmaise), and was father of :

5a) Alexander Bruce, *bap.* at Edinburgh on 3 October, 1658.

5a) James Bruce, *bap.* at Edinburgh on 7 March, 1661, and was buried in the Greyfriars, Edinburgh, on 10 August 1676.<sup>4</sup>

5a) Andrew Bruce, *bap.* at Edinburgh on 2 January 1682.

5a) Jean Bruce, *bap.* at Edinburgh on 20 July 1656, and *dsp.*

5a) Margaret Bruce, *bap.* at Edinburgh on 7 December 1662, and *dsp.*

5a) Helen Bruce, *bap.* at Edinburgh on 11 June 1664, and was buried in the Greyfriars, Edinburgh, on 12 November 1668.<sup>5</sup>

5a) Anna Bruce, *m.* John Hamilton, 3<sup>rd</sup> Lord Belhaven, (*c/m* 5 February 1697. He *d.* on 17 November 1721), and was served heir general to her father on 8 August 1704. She *d.* on 17 August, 1707, and had issue.

6. Jean Bruce, *bap.* at Kinghorn on 8 April, 1644.

**ROBERT BRUCE**, *b.* on 1 December, 1639, and was apprenticed to John Boyd, Merchant in Edinburgh, on 24 August, 1653.<sup>6</sup> He became a Merchant and Bailie in Kinghorn and is styled as brother to the deceased John Bruce, Bailie of Kinghorn, when accounting for the crops belonging to Sir William Bruce of Kinross in the 1690's and in which responsibility he had succeeded his brother.<sup>7</sup> He *m.* Elizabeth, daughter of James Wemyss, in St. Andrews, *d.* in 1702 and was father of :

1. Robert Bruce, of Grangemuir, (*see below*).

2. Elizabeth Bruce, *bap.* at Kinghorn on 3 December 1665.

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<sup>1</sup> GD6/136

<sup>2</sup> Greyfriars Burial Register.

<sup>3</sup> GD6/137

<sup>4</sup> Greyfriars Burial Register.

<sup>5</sup> Greyfriars Burial Register.

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

<sup>7</sup> GD29/330

3. Jean Bruce, *bap.* at Kinghorn on 20 June 1669.
4. Margaret Bruce, *bap.* at Kinghorn on 20 October 1670, and *d.* young.
5. Agnes Bruce, *bap.* at Kinghorn on 2 June 1672.
6. Margaret Bruce, *bap.* at Kinghorn on 18 March 1677.
7. Judith Bruce, *bap.* at Kinghorn on 26 September 1682, and *m.* on 24 August 1711, James Alexander,<sup>1</sup> (*c/m* 24 August 1711<sup>2</sup>).

**ROBERT BRUCE OF GRANGEMUIR**, *b.* on 27 September 1679, and obtained the lands of Grangemuir. He was served heir general to his father on 3 July 1732, and is styled as the only son in a Disposition by himself to James Morrison on 18 May 1753. He *m.* on 6 August 1702, Margaret, daughter of Mr. George Schaw, Minister of Logie,<sup>3</sup> *d.* in April of 1762<sup>4</sup> and was father of :

1. Robert Bruce of Grangemuir, (*see below*).
2. Andrew Bruce, *b.* on 1<sup>st</sup> and *bap.* at Kinghorn on 10 January 1705, and *d.* in infancy.
3. George Bruce, *b.* on 25 September and *bap.* at Kinghorn on 1 October, 1708.
4. Andrew Bruce, *b.* on 4<sup>th</sup> and *bap.* at Kinghorn on 12 January, 1710, and became Captain of the ship “*Besty*.” He *m.* at Forres on 18 July 1740, to Jean, daughter of Rev. John Squire,<sup>5</sup> *d.* in 1761, and was father of :

4a) **JOHN BRUCE OF GRANGEHILL AND FALKLAND**, *bap.* at Forres on 8 November 1744, and was served heir general to his father on 10 October 1764. He was an academic of some note being appointed Professor of Logic at Edinburgh University, and also holder of several state offices including that of Keeper and Registrar of State Papers, to which he was appointed by commission dated 15 November 1792. He extended his estates, purchasing the lands of Myres and Falkland, and on the latter he commissioned a great deal of restoration work on the old royal palace there with the objective of preserving it for future generations. He *dsp* at Nuthill, in Fife, on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April 1826, aged 82 years.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> OPR - Kinghorn

<sup>2</sup> B9/7/2

<sup>3</sup> OPR - Kinghorn

<sup>4</sup> St. Andrews Tests

<sup>5</sup> OPR – Forres.

<sup>6</sup> Caledonian Mercury. 27<sup>th</sup> April 1826, edition.

4a) Robert Bruce, *bap.* at Forres on 19 August 1751, entered the army, serving with the rank of Colonel in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bengal Artillery. He *d.* at Cawnpore, East Indies, on 4 November 1796,<sup>1</sup> with his brother John being served his heir general on 18 October following, and was father of :

4b) **MARGARET STUART BRUCE OF GRANGEHILL AND FALKLAND**, was a natural daughter and on 18 January 1820, she had a grant under the Privy Seal giving her authority to dispoise her estate.<sup>2</sup> She succeeded her uncle John in his estates on his death in 1826, being served his heir on 5 June of that year, and *m.* at St. John's Chapel, Edinburgh, on 13 March 1828, to Onesiphorus Tyndall, second son of Thomas Tyndall, of the Fort, Bristol, (he *d.* at Falkland on Monday 19 March 1855<sup>3</sup>), who assumed the surname and arms of Bruce. She *d.* at Falkland House on Sunday 7 November 1869.<sup>4</sup>

4a) Margaret Bruce, *bap.* at Forres on 6 May 1741, and *d.* unmarried in 1813. She made her Will in that year, bequeathing all of her belongings to her niece, Margaret Stuart Bruce, and in which she is styled as daughter of Andrew Bruce.<sup>5</sup>

5. James Bruce, *bap.* at Kinghorn on 12 August, 1713, and *d.* in infancy.

6. James Bruce, *b.* on 21<sup>st</sup> and *bap.* at Kinghorn on 28 November, 1714, and was appointed Minister of Dunbog, a charge he maintained for 47 years until his death. He *m.* on 29 August 1758, Elizabeth Inglis, (she *d.* on 7 November 1769), and *d.* on 5 July 1795.<sup>6</sup>

7. Alexander Bruce, *b.* and *bap.* at Kinghorn on 8 January 1718.

8. John Bruce, *b.* and *bap.* at Kinghorn on 4 February 1719.

9. Jean Bruce, *bap.* at Kinghorn on 16 July 1706.

10. Agnes Bruce, *b.* on 7 July and *bap.* at Kinghorn on 15 July 1707, *m.* at Kinghorn on 29 December 1730, Robert Hamilton, Mariner in Kinghorn,<sup>7</sup> and had issue.

11. Elizabeth Bruce, *bap.* at Kinghorn on 9 February 1711, and acted as executor to her father in 1762.

12. Margaret Bruce, *bap.* at Kinghorn on 18 July 1712.

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<sup>1</sup> GD152/112. See also Scots Magazine. 1<sup>st</sup> June 1797, edition.

<sup>2</sup> GD152/148

<sup>3</sup> Fife Herald. 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1855, edition.

<sup>4</sup> Statutory record. See also, Edinburgh Evening Courant. 11<sup>th</sup> November 1869, edition.

<sup>5</sup> GD152/215/6

<sup>6</sup> Caledonian Mercury, 16<sup>th</sup> July 1795, edition.

<sup>7</sup> OPR – Kinghorn.

**ROBERT BRUCE OF GRANGEMUIR**, *b.* on 9<sup>th</sup> and *bap.* at Kinghorn on 18 May 1703, and succeeded his father. He was father of :

**THOMAS BRUCE OF GRANGEMUIR**, succeeded and *dsp* at Grangemuir on 6 February 1829.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Perthshire Courier. 26<sup>th</sup> February 1829, edition.