

CUNNINGHAM

OF BELTON & WEST BARNES

NEIL DE CUNNINGHAM OF BELTON, who, for his good services, had a charter for the lands of Belton from George, Earl of March, 1365x1380. He had a resignation in his favour from Patrick Polwarth of that Ilk for the lands of Westerbarns, in Fife, on 6 November 1376,¹ and was father of :

ARCHIBALD CUNNINGHAM OF BELTON, had a charter under the Great Seal of King Robert III., for the Barony of Snade, in the shire of Dumfries, in 1380, and in which he is styled as son of Neil de Cunningham. He a charter under the Great Seal of King Robert III. for the lands of West Barns in around 1394/5, and was father of :

SIR WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM OF BELTON AND SNADE, infeft in the lands of Belton and Kilpallet on 24 January 1419, and had a resignation from George Rippeth of the lands of Westerbarns and others lying in the barony of Crail on 26 November 1431. He d. in about December of 1471, as in his son George's retour as his heir held on 5 February 1472, he is stated to have died approximately six weeks previous to then. He was father of :

1. George Cunningham of Belton, (*see below*).
2. Sir William Cunningham, was a Priest and whom his brother George Cunningham of Belton presented as Chaplain of the Altar of St. Mary in the Kirk of Crail on 7 June 1482.
3. Neil Cunningham, who *d.* prior to 21 January 1482 and was father of :
 - 3a) John Cunningham of West Barns, (*see below*).

GEORGE CUNNINGHAM OF BELTON, styled as son and apparent heir of his father in an Instrument by Robert Ferguson declaring that he had been retoured heir to certain lands dated 1 July 1457. He was retoured heir to his father in the lands of Belton and others, on 21 January 1472, and upon his own resignation, he had a charter for the lands of Belton

¹ Yester charters. Which contain the early Belton papers cited in this account.

from their superior Alexander Stewart, Duke of Albany and Earl of March, on 3 November 1478, to be held by George and the heirs-male of his body failing whom, by his sister Elizabeth Cunningham and her second son John Hay or her third son William Hay and their heirs-male, whom failing, by any other son of the said Elizabeth and John Hay of Olivercastle, her husband, on condition that whichever son, upon succeeding, shall present themselves before Parliament and take the surname and arms of Cunningham. He disposed his barony of Snade to his nephew John Hay on 4 May 1482. He founded a Chaplaincy in the Kirk of Crail on 5 June 1482, to be funded from his lands of Westerbarne and *d.* prior to 9 November 1482, when his daughter Elizabeth Cunningham was returned his heir. He was father of :

1. Elizabeth Cunningham, *m.* John Hay of Olivercastle, second son of David Hay of Yestir, (*c/m* 17 December 1468), and had issue. She was returned heir to her father on 9 November 1482.

JOHN CUNNINGHAM OF WEST BARNS, was under age at his father's death and as a consequence of which his ward was gifted by King James III. to Sir Baldred Blackadder on 21 January 1483, and he is then styled as son of the deceased Neil Cunningham brother of the deceased George Cunningham of Belton and heir of tailzie to the said George in his lands of Westerbarne. He had Sasine of Wester Barne in 1483,¹ was of age and present at a court hearing on 3 February, 1490/1, and was witness to a grant by William Morton to the parish church of Crail on 1 June, 1500. He *d.* after August of 1505 and prior to 4 February, 1506, when the ward of Robert Cunningham, his eldest son and heir, was gifted to David Arnot, Abbot of Cambuskenneth and Mr. John Spens. He was father of :

1. Robert Cunningham of West Barne, (*see below*).
2. John Cunningham, styled as son of the deceased John Cunningham of West Barne when named as a substitute heir in a charter in favour of Mr. David Spens, Rector of Flisk, on 7 February, 1516.²
3. Christine Cunningham, apparently a daughter of John Cunningham of Barne, who *m.* Alexander Borthwick, grandson and heir of John Borthwick of Balhouffie, by 25 May, 1508, and had issue.

¹ Ex. Rolls. Vol. IX. P. 683.

² RPS Vol. I. No. 270

ROBERT CUNNINGHAM OF WEST BARNES, who was underage at the time of his father's death with his ward being granted to David Arnot, Abbot of Cambuskenneth, and Mr John Spens, subchantor of Moray, on 4 February, 1506.¹ He was of age by 25 May, 1508, when he was witness to a charter by John Borthwick of Balhouffie for the lands of Balhouffie to his grandson and heir Alexander Borthwick,² and d. by 11 February 1514, when his son and heir, William Cunningham, was entered in the lands of West Barnes, and was father of :

WILLIAM CUNNINGHAM OF WEST BARNES, succeeded his father and had Sasine for the lands of West Barnes on 11 February 1514.³ He and his son, Alexander Cunningham, had a charter under the Great Seal for the lands of West Barnes, in the constabulary of Crail, on 26 January, 1566. He *m.* Beatrix, daughter of Allan Lamont of Hellenhill, and was father of :

1. **ALEXANDER CUNNINGHAM OF BARNES**, included with his father in a charter for the lands of West Barnes on 26 January, 1566. He *m.* in 1559, to Christian Wood although the marriage was an unhappy one. She deserted him and in 1561, he called the matter to the session of St. Andrews with Mr. John Winram, Superintendant, decreeing that as they had been contracted and wed in the eyes of the church, and that any divorce had been obtained by "ane profane" source, she was to return to him as his wife. He *dsp* prior to 3 April, 1584.
2. John Cunningham of West Barnes, (*see below*).
3. Thomas Cunningham, had an annualrent from Sir James Melville of Halhill which was redeemed on 1 June, 1578, and in which he is styled as brother of John Cunningham of Barnes.⁴
4. Allan Cunningham, had a charter from his uncle Mr Alan Lamont, younger, for eleven and a half acres of lands belonging to the parish of Craill on 3 April, 1584.⁵

JOHN CUNNINGHAM OF WEST BARNES, had a charter for the lands of West Barnes upon his father's resignation on 10 April, 1572.¹ He *m.* firstly, Helen Meldrum, with whom he

¹ RPS Vol. I. No. 121

² RMS 1424-1513. No. 323

³ Ex. Rolls. Vol. XIV. P. 536.

⁴ GD26/506/

⁵ RPS Vol. VIII. No. 198

had a charter of joint-infeftment in the lands of West Barns with the tower and fortalice thereof, in July of 1576, and secondly, after June of 1585, to Euphemia, daughter of George Leslie, 3rd Earl of Rothes, (she was widow of Sir George Learmonth of Balcomie, who had *d.* in June of 1585. She *d.* in April of 1588). He *d.* in 1597 and was father of :

1. Alexander Cunningham of West Barns, (*see below*).
2. John Cunningham, a natural son who had letters of legitimation on 16 April, 1596.

ALEXANDER CUNNINGHAM OF WEST BARNs, succeeded his father by 5 December, 1597, when he was witness to a charter by David Balfour of Balledmonth. He had a charter under the Great Seal for the lands of West Barns as heir of his deceased uncle Alexander Cunningham, son of the deceased William Cunningham of Barns, on 28 March, 1616, and which were then erected into the barony of West Barns.² He *m.* Helen, daughter of Thomas Morton of Cambo, *d.* prior to June of 1644 and was father of :

1. John Cunningham of West Barns, (*see below*).
2. Mary Cunningham, betrothed to Sir William Drummond of Hawthornden but *d.* in 1615, shortly before their wedding day.
3. Margaret Cunningham, *m.* Mr. James Ross, Minister of Forteviot and younger son of John Ross of Craigie, and had issue.

JOHN CUNNINGHAM OF WEST BARNs, styled as heir of Barns when witness to a charter by Robert Lumsden of Airdrie, on 6 March, 1598, and was retoured heir to his father in the Isle of May on 24 June, 1644. He *m.* Margaret, eldest daughter of Laurence Mercer of Meikleour, to whom his father granted the liferent of the lands of West Barns which was confirmed under the Great Seal on 18 July, 1627, and *d.* by 24 May, 1648. He was father of :

1. Laurence Cunningham of West Barns, (*see below*).

¹ RMS 1580-1593. No. 203

² RMS 1609-1620. No. 140

2. Alexander Cunningham of Todsgreen, was appointed keeper of the registers of Sasines for Fife and *m.* on 19 April, 1657, to Margaret, daughter of William Moncrieff of Randerston. He was father of :
 - 2a) James Cunningham, *b.* 4 May, 1666.
 - 2a) Isobel Cunningham, *bap.* at Cupar on 1 December, 1661.
 - 2a) Helen Cunningham, *bap.* at Cupar on 30 January, 1663.
 - 2a) Jean Cunningham, *bap.* at Cupar on 9 September, 1664.
3. Margaret Cunningham, *m.* on 11 June, 1643, to David Aytoun, 4th of Kinnaldie, and had issue.

LAURENCE CUNNINGHAM OF WEST BARNES, retoured heir to his father in the lands of West Barnes and the Isle of May on 24 May, 1648, and obtained protection from his creditors from Parliament in 1649, on account of his being left in severe financial straits by his father. He *m.* at Edinburgh on 17 August, 1648, Marion Ainslie, *d.* at Edinburgh on 28 December, 1658, and was buried at Greyfriars on the 1st of January following.¹ He was father of :

JOHN CUNNINGHAM OF BARNES, *bap.* at Dunfermline on 5 September, 1650, succeeded his father and *d.* prior to 27 June 1704. He *m.* firstly, Isabel, daughter of Rev. James Sharp, Archbishop of St. Andrews, (*c/m* 19 November 1679. She was buried on 3 March 1693), by whom he was father of :

1. James Cunningham of Barnes, (*see below*).
2. John Cunningham, *bap.* at Crail on 2 January, 1685, and *d.* on 2 December, 1686.
3. Agnes Cunningham, *bap.* at Crail on 23 July, 1686.
4. Margaret Cunningham, *bap.* at Crail on 12 August, 1690, and *dsp* prior to 26 June 1718, when her sister Helen was retoured her heir.
5. Helen Cunningham,

He *m.* secondly, in 1697, to Cecilia, only daughter of James Carmichael of Balmblae, and by her he was father of :

6. John Cunningham, *bap.* at Crail on 21 December, 1700.

¹Lamont's Diary. P. 110. In which he is styled as "Being bot a young man."

JAMES CUNNINGHAM OF BARNES, succeeded his father and was served his heir on 27 June, 1704. His estate being encumbered though, he was forced to sell the lands of West Barnes to David Scott of Scottstarvit who was thereafter infeft on 22 January 1715.

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