

GIFFORD

OF YESTER

HUGH DE GIFFARD, had a charter from King William I. for all of those lands he held and holds of his brother King Malcolm, Countess Ada, his mother, and Herbert, the then Chamberlain of Scotland, being those of Jhestrith [Yester], Lasditoun, and others, dated 1166x1171.¹ He was one of the hostages for the liberation of King William in 1174, had a charter from David, Earl of Huntingdon, for the lands of Fintry to be held for half a knight's service, dated 1178x1190² and was father of :

WILLIAM DE GIFFORD, to whom King William I., granted a charter for a toft in the burgh of Forres ; a toft at Inverculan ; a toft at Banff ; a toft at Kintore a toft at Invertollin ; a toft at Kincardine ; a toft at the castle of Alyth, and a toft at at Cluny to be held by he and his heirs in fee and heritage, dated 2 March 1188x1199.³ He had another charter from this King for the lands of Thelin for the service of one Knight, dated 1195x1199⁴ in which he is styled as son of Hugh de Giffard, and had a further charter from William I., confirming to him the lands of Lesdintoun and others, which had been held by his father, dated 7 May 1202x1207.⁵ He had a resignation from Thomas de Yester, son of Randulph, for the lands of Nether Yester in exchange for one carucate of lands in Berwaldstone, dated 1230x1250.⁶ He d. by July of 1250, and was father of :

SIR HUGH DE GIFFARD OF YESTER, succeeded his father by 30 July 1250, when at a court convened at Forfar, Godfrid, son of Thomas of Tynedale, resigned his lands of Balbohelyn which had been granted to his ancestors by William de Giffard, Hugh's

¹ Yester writs. No. 1.

² Yester writs. No. 4.

³ Yester writs. No. 5.

⁴ Yester writs. No. 6.

⁵ Yester writs. No. 8.

⁶ Yester writs. No. 13.

forebare, on account of his not being able to undertake the service required.¹ He was appointed one of the Guardians on the young King Alexander III. and was one of the Regents nominated by the treaty of Roxburgh on 20 September 1255. He *d.* at his castle of Yester in 1267, which he is said to have built with the assistance of witchcraft,² and was father of :

1. Sir John de Giffard of Yester, (*see below*).

He is also said to have been father of :

2. Hugh de Giffard, ancestor of the family of Giffard of Sheriffhall although there is no proof of this relationship.

SIR JOHN DE GIFFARD OF YESTER, succeeded his father on his death and gave homage to Edward I., of England at Berwick-on-Tweed on 28 August 1296.³ He was father of :

SIR JOHN DE GIFFARD OF YESTER, to whom Hugh de Fodderinghay resigned and quitclaimed his lands of Balcnoch in circa 1320, which he had held under the late Sir John de Giffard, Sir John's father.⁴ He *m.* a woman by the name of Euphemia, said to be daughter of Sir Thomas de Moreham, with whom he is included in a charter by King Robert I., by which he grants the lands and barony of Dunipace, Duncanlaw and Moreham to Sir Thomas de Moreham to be held by him of Sir John with the provisio that in the event that Sir John should die without issue, the lands would revert to Sir Thomas and his heirs, dated 18 May 1322.⁵ He granted a concession to the nuns of Haddington allowing them transit through his lands in November 1327, and donated a toft and croft in the town of Yester to the monks of Melrose for the weal of the souls of Euphemia, his wife, and Sir Hugh de Giffard, his grandfather. He *d.* in about 1340 and was father of :

¹ Yester writs. No. 15.

² Fordun. Vol II. P. 105.

³ Cal. Docs. Scot. Vol. II. P. 207.

⁴ Yester writs. No. 18.

⁵ Yester writs. No. 19.

HUGH DE GIFFARD OF YESTER, succeeded his father and in March of 1350 he entered into an agreement with the tenants of his lands of Giffardgates for the maintenance of the bridge and use of lands bestowed on the tenants there by his predecessors. He *d.* by March of 1375, and was father of :

1. **JANET GIFFARD, LADY OF YESTER**, *m.* by 17 March 1375, to Sir Neil Cunningham who is thereafter styled as “Lord of Yester.¹” She either divorced him or he died without having had issue by her as on 5 February 1397-98, she took instruments that she had compared at a court with William de Sinclair, her bailie, and there Henry de Cockburn, brother of William de Cockburn of Scraling requested that he be allowed to enter into part of the lands of Duncanlaw.² She *m.* secondly, to Sir Thomas de Hay of Locherwart and is styled as his relict on 1 December 1399. She had issue by him which succeeded to the lands of Yester.
2. Agnes de Giffard, *m.* Eustace de Maxwell, 1st of Tealing and had issue.
3. Euphemia de Giffard, *m.* Dougal MacDowell of Makerstoun and had issue including an eldest son :
 - 3a) Dougal MacDowell, who had a charter from Robert, Duke of Albany, for the baronies of Yester, Duncanlaw, Morham and others, on 11 March 1409, and in which he is styled as son of Eupheami Giffard, daughter and one of the heirs of the deceased Sir Hugh Giffard, Knight.³
4. Alicia de Giffard, *m.* Sir Thomas Boyd of Kilmarnock, and had issue.

¹ Yester writs.

² Yester writs. No. 40.

³ RMS. Robert, Duke of Albany.