

# HENDERSON

## OF FORDELL

**ROBERT HENDERSON**, of uncertain parentage and ancestry, is the first for whom there is evidence. He was a Burgess of Edinburgh and *m.* a woman by the name of Janet. On 12 December 1486, his son and heir George Henderson granted various annualrents to the Prior and Convent of the Blackfriars in Edinburgh for the celebration of a requiem mass in remembrance of his parents.<sup>1</sup> He was father of :

**GEORGE HENDERSON**, was a Burgess of Edinburgh, and was father of :

**JAMES HENDERSON, 1<sup>ST</sup> OF FORDELL**, was appointed King's Advocate by March of 1505, and Justice Clerk by November of 1508, and *m.* Helen, daughter of John Baty<sup>2</sup> and sister and one of the heirs of James Baty,<sup>3</sup> (she *m.* secondly by 17 December, 1517, to Alan Stewart, Captain of Dumbarton Castle, and sometime Provost of Edinburgh, second son of Alexander Stewart of Galston), with whom he had a charter for the lands of Fordell on 8 March, 1510. He was *k.* at the battle of Flodden on 9 September, 1513, and was father of :

1. George Henderson of Fordell, (*see below*).
2. James Henderson, named with his mother in a Sasine dated 12 March 1521.<sup>4</sup>
3. Isobel Henderson, *m.* Thomas Stewart of Galston, (*c/m* 26 November 1526), and had issue.

**GEORGE HENDERSON OF FORDELL**, had a charter for the lands of Letham, in the barony of Fordell, on 10 February, 1521, and *m.* firstly, Catherine, daughter of William

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<sup>1</sup> GD172/76

<sup>2</sup> GD172/17/1

<sup>3</sup> SRS Protocol Book of James Young. No. 186.

<sup>4</sup> SRS Protocol Book of James Young. No. 186.

Adamson, Merchant in Edinburgh, (*c/m* 17 December, 1517<sup>1</sup>). He *m.* secondly, Marion Scott, *d.* in 1543 and was father of :

1. William Henderson of Fordell, (*see below*).
2. John Henderson of Bengour, was appointed Tutor to his nephew James Henderson of Fordell on 8 June 1548, and is then styled as second son to the deceased George Henderson of Fordell.<sup>2</sup>
3. Janet Henderson, *m.* firstly Alexander Guthrie, Town Clerk of Edinburgh, and secondly, to David Carnegie of Colluthie, (*c/m* 26 April, 1594).
4. Marion Henderson, *m.* Mr. George Hay by 25 February, 1561, when she granted a discharge to Marion Scott, relict of George Henderson of Fordell, her father.<sup>3</sup>

**WILLIAM HENDERSON OF FORDELL**, succeeded his father and *m.* his step-sister Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander Scott, (Dispensation dated 18 November, 1543<sup>4</sup>). He was *k.* at the battle of Pinkie in September of 1547,<sup>5</sup> and was father of :

1. James Henderson, of Fordell, (*see below*).
2. Agnes Henderson,
3. Janet Henderson,

**JAMES HENDERSON OF FORDELL**, succeeded his father on his dath in 1547 and had Sasine for the lands of Fordell on 5 November 1548.<sup>6</sup> He *m.* Jean, daughter of Sir William Moray, 10<sup>th</sup> of Tulliebardine, (*c/m* 19 February, 1563), was father of :

1. John Henderson of Fordell, (*see below*).
2. Sir Robert Henderson, served as a Captain in the army and named his brothers Francis and James, then his father James Henderson of Fordell, as his substitute heirs in his lands of

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<sup>1</sup> GD172/178

<sup>2</sup> Acts and Decrees 25/16.

<sup>3</sup> GD172/20

<sup>4</sup> GD172/195

<sup>5</sup> RPS Vol. V Pt. II. No. 125

<sup>6</sup> Ex. Rolls. Vol. XVIII. P. 451.

Tunygask on 3 December, 1600.<sup>1</sup> He *m.* Anna, daughter of Captain John Kirkpatrick, was *k.* at Bergen-op-Zoom, in 1622, and was father of :

2a) John Henderson of Tunnygask, was served heir to his father on 20 December, 1623, and was infeft as his heir in the lands of Tunnygask on 24 January, 1624.

2a) James Henderson, resided in Germany and had Letters under the Great Seal confirming his descent from the family of Henderson of Fordell on 26 January, 1637.<sup>2</sup>

3. Sir James Henderson,

4. Sir Francis Henderson, had a charter from his father for the lands of Easter Dewhouses on 30 March, 1587.<sup>3</sup>

5. Anne Henderson, *c.* on 21 December, 1567, and *m.* William Hamilton of Pardovan, by 14 March, 1594, when he granted a discharge to her father for Tocher.<sup>4</sup>

6. Janet Henderson, *m.* firstly, at Stirling on 15 April 1592, William Elphinstone, Sheriff of Orkney, son of Alexander 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord Elphinstone, (he *d.* on 26 July 1602), and had issue ; and secondly, Alexander Livingstone, fiar of Haning, son and heir of Thomas Livingstone of Haning, (*c/m* at Stirling on 29 October, 1603<sup>5</sup>), by whom she had no apparent issue.

7. Eupham Henderson, *m.* to John Dempster of Logiealton, and had issue.

8. Margaret Henderson, *m.* to William Echlin, younger of Pittadro, (*c/m* 31 December, 1597<sup>6</sup>), and had issue. She was accused of being a witch and was apprehended and carried to Edinburgh castle. She was found dead in her chamber in December of 1649, apparently, after having committed suicide.<sup>7</sup>

9. Barbara Henderson, *c.* at Dunfermline on 7 January, 1573, *m.* to James Spittal of Leuchat, (*c/m* 4 July, 1604<sup>8</sup>).

10. Grisel Henderson, *m.* by 27 July, 1598, to Alexander Douglas of Mains, when he granted a discharge to her father for Tocher.<sup>9</sup>

11. Elizabeth Henderson, *c.* at Dunfermline on 4 December, 1577, and *m.* Henry Scott of Spencerfield. He raised letters of horning against his father-in-law James Henderson of Fordell

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<sup>1</sup> GD172/13

<sup>2</sup> RMS 1634-1651. No. 63

<sup>3</sup> GD172/136/

<sup>4</sup> GD172/23

<sup>5</sup> RMS 1594-1608. No. 149

<sup>6</sup> GD172/23

<sup>7</sup> Lamont's Diary. P. 1

<sup>8</sup> GD172/142

<sup>9</sup> GD172/23

for him to pay the annuents granted in his favour in terms of the marriage contract with Elizabeth, daughter of James, on 13 February, 1601.<sup>1</sup>

**SIR JOHN HENDERSON OF FORDELL**, *m.* first, Agnes, daughter of David Balfour of Balbuthy, and had issue ; and second, Anna, eldest daughter of Sir Robert Halket of Pitferran, (*c/m* in December of 1614.<sup>2</sup> She survived him and *m.* secondly, at Dunfermline on 26 February 1622, to Sir Thomas Morton of Cambo). He *d.* in January of 1618 and was father of :

1. John Henderson of Fordell, (*see below*).
2. Francis Henderson, was included as a substitute heir to his brother John Henderson of Fordell, in the lands and Barony of Fordell on 15 April, 1600.
3. Jean Henderson,
4. Margaret Henderson, *m.* John Scott of Spencerfield.
5. Harie Henderson,
6. Bethia Henderson, *m.* Sir John Hamilton of Orbieston, Lord Justice Clerk.
7. Eupham Henderson,

By his second wife he had further issue :

8. Sir James Henderson, a posthumous son who was *c.* at Dunfermline on 3 February, 1618, and served as a Captain in the French service. He *dsp* prior to 13 March, 1645, when his brother, John Henderson of Fordell, was served his heir.
9. Jean Henderson, *c.* at Dunfermline on 5 April, 1616, and *m.* James Hamilton of Dalzeil. She *d.* in July of 1653 and had issue.

**JOHN HENDERSON OF FORDELL**, retoured heir to his father in the lands of Fordell on 21 July, 1625, *m.* at Dunfermline on 7 February, 1625, Margaret, only daughter of William Menteith of Randieford, (*c/m* 20 December, 1624<sup>3</sup>), and *d.* on 11 March, 1650. He was father of :

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<sup>1</sup> GD172/250

<sup>2</sup> RMS 1609-1620. No. 175

<sup>3</sup> GD172/28

1. John Henderson of Fordell, (*see below*).
2. William Henderson, who, with his brothers, James and Francis were named as substitute heirs to their eldest brother Sir John Henderson in the Barony of Fordell on 7 April, 1670.
3. James Henderson, to whom the estate of his brother George was granted on 11 July, 1654. He *m.* Margaret, daughter of John Scott of Spenserfield.
4. Francis Henderson,
5. George Henderson, *ksp* in Holland prior 11 July, 1654, when his brother James was given a disposition of all rights to his estate by his brothers and sisters.
6. Jean Henderson, *m.* at Dalgety on 27 April, 1648, Thomas Bruce, 4<sup>th</sup> of Blairhall, and had issue.
7. Margaret Henderson, *m.* firstly on 9 June, 1653, Sir Henry Wardlaw, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baronet of Pittreavie, and had no issue ; and secondly in 1665 to Peter Hay, 3<sup>rd</sup> of Naughton,<sup>1</sup> (he *d.* in 1704), by whom she had issue.
8. Anne Henderson, *m.* firstly on 14 March, 1669, to Archibald Stewart, 1<sup>st</sup> of Dunearn, (he *d.* in February of 1688), and had issue ; and secondly to Captain Walter Denholme, son of Robert Denholm of Westfield. She *d.* in March of 1708.
9. Elizabeth Henderson, *m.* firstly at Dunfermline on 9 May, 1656, to Alexander Mercer of Kinnaird, secondly on 14 May, 1660, to Sir Robert Cunningham, Physician to King Charles II. and thirdly on 7 July, 1679, to Sir William Denholm of Westfield.
10. Bethia Henderson, who, with her brothers and sisters, had a Bond of Provision from their father on 30 June, 1648.<sup>2</sup>

**SIR JOHN HENDERSON, 1<sup>ST</sup> BARONET OF FORDELL**, retoured heir to his father on 9 June, 1653, and was created a Baronet by King Charles II. to himself and his heirs male on 15 July, 1664. He *m.* Margaret, daughter of Sir John Hamilton of Orbieston, (*c/m* 31 October, 1657,<sup>3</sup>) *d.* in 1683 and was father of :

1. John Henderson, *bap.* 12 April 1660, and *d.* aged 18 years.
2. William Henderson of Fordell, (*see below*).
3. Margaret Henderson, *m.* on 27 February, 1681, to Alexander Stewart, Lord Blantyre, (he *m.* secondly, Anne, sister of John, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord Belhaven, and had issue), and had no apparent issue.
4. Jean Henderson, *m.* to James Hamilton of Dalzeil.

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<sup>1</sup> Lamont's Diary.

<sup>2</sup> GD172/30

<sup>3</sup> GD172/31

**SIR WILLIAM HENDERSON, 2<sup>ND</sup> BARONET OF FORDELL**, succeeded his father and was served heir to his grandfather John Henderson of Fordell in the lands of Stratton on 13 March 1700. He *m.* Jean, daughter and coheirress of James Hamilton of Mountainhall, *d.* in 1709 and was father of :

1. Sir John Henderson, 3<sup>rd</sup> Baronet of Fordell, (*see below*).
2. James Henderson of Earlshall, *b.* on 16 January 1686, and *m.* Helen, eldest daughter and heiress of Robert Bruce, 7<sup>th</sup> of Earlshall, (she was widow of David Baillie, whom she had *m.* on 2 April, 1722, and who had *d.* in April of 1724, and by whom she had issue. She *m.* thirdly, after the death of James, to Walter Wemyss of Lathockar, and *d.* in 1775). He *dsp* in January of 1741, with his nephew Sir Robert Henderson of Fordell, being retoured his heir firstly, on 11 April 1765, and again on 23 February 1774.
3. William Henderson of Raddernie, served as a Captain in the army. He *m.* firstly, Margaret, daughter of Robert Bruce, 7<sup>th</sup> of Earlshall, and secondly, by 27 November, 1755, Anne, daughter of Thomas Graham of Greigston. He *dsp*.
4. Philip Henderson, to whom his brothers Sir John and Mr. James Henderson were appointed curators on 4 November 1720.
5. Bethia Henderson, *m.* Alexander Hamilton of Dalziel.

**SIR JOHN HENDERSON, 3<sup>RD</sup> BARONET OF FORDELL**, *b.* 28 December 1686, succeeded his father and *m.* Edinburgh on 17 September, 1716, to Christian, daughter of Sir Robert Anstruther of Balcaskie, (*c/m* 15 September 1716.<sup>1</sup> She *d.* at Edinburgh in the morning of Friday 1 February 1760<sup>2</sup>). He was father of :

1. William Henderson, *c.* at Dalgety on 4 September 1718, and *d.* young.
2. Sir Robert Henderson, 4<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Fordell, (*see below*).
3. John Henderson, *c.* at Dalgety on 31 August 1722, and *d.* young.
4. Prestina Henderson, *b.* on 17 October 1719, and *d.* young.
5. Jean Henderson, *b.* on 24 August 1717, and, with her sister Christian, had a Bond of Provision from their father on 18 May, 1724. She *d.* on 8 August 1788.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> GD172/40

<sup>2</sup> Caledonian Mercury, 4<sup>th</sup> February 1760, edition.

<sup>3</sup> Scots Magazine, 1<sup>st</sup> August 1788, edition.

6. Christian Henderson, *b.* on 14 November 1723, and *d.* unmarried at Edinburgh on 4 February 1787.<sup>1</sup>
7. Anne Henderson,
8. Jacobina Henderson, who, with her sisters Jean and Ann, had an assignation from their sister Christian of all sums due to her in terms of provisions granted to her by their deceased father on 22 July 1771.

**SIR ROBERT HENDERSON, 4<sup>TH</sup> BARONET OF FORDELL**, *b.* on 11 July 1721, succeeded his father and *m.* at Edinburgh on 3 October, 1748, to Isabell, daughter of Archibald Stewart of Torrence, (*c/m* 3 October 1748.<sup>2</sup> She was widow of George MacKenzie of Farness, and *d.* at Fordell on 16 August 1796). He *d.* at Fordell on 19 October 1781,<sup>3</sup> and was father of :

1. **SIR JOHN HENDERSON, 5<sup>TH</sup> BARONET OF FORDELL**, succeeded his father and was retoured heir to his father on 28 June 1782. He *m.* in June of 1781, Ann Loudoun, only daughter and heiress of Lieutenant-General James Robertson of Newbigging, (*c/m* 28 April, 1781.<sup>4</sup> She *d.* on 6 February 1782), *d.* on 12 December 1812, and was father of :

1a) Ann Isabella Henderson, *m.* at London on 16 October, 1817, Sir Philip Charles Henderson Calderwood Durham of Fordell, Polton and Largo, (he was widow of Charlotte, daughter of Charles Bruce, 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Elgin, whom he had *m.* on 28 March 1799, and who had *dsp* in 1816. He *dsp* at Naples on 2 April 1845,) who, on the death of her uncle Sir Robert Henderson of Fordell, assumed the additional surname of Henderson and succeeded to the lands of Fordell. She *dsp* at Fordell House on 18 December 1844,<sup>5</sup> with the lands of Fordell passing to her cousin George Mercer.

2. **SIR ROBERT HENDERSON, 6<sup>TH</sup> BARONET OF FORDELL**, succeeded to the lands of Earlsall and also to his brother in those of Fordell and *d.* unmarried at Aberdour House on 12 August 1833.<sup>6</sup> He was father of a natural daughter :

2a) Isabella Henderson, *m.* at Dalyell Lodge on 23 September 1823, to William Berry of Tayfield.

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<sup>1</sup> Scots Magazine, 1<sup>st</sup> February 1787, edition.

<sup>2</sup> GD172/44. See also: Caledonian Mercury, 4<sup>th</sup> October 1748, edition.

<sup>3</sup> Scots Magazine, 1<sup>st</sup> October 1781, edition.

<sup>4</sup> GD172/48

<sup>5</sup> London Evening Standard, 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1844, edition.

<sup>6</sup> London Courier, 29<sup>th</sup> August 1833, edition.

3. Christian Henderson, *c.* at Edinburgh on 1 September, 1749, and *dsp.*  
4. Jean Henderson, *m.* at Fordell on 21 December 1776, to Colonel George Mercer, 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Dragoons,<sup>1</sup> and *d.* at Queen Anne Street, London, on 10 May 1814.<sup>2</sup> They had issue :

4a) **GEORGE MERCER HENDERSON OF FORDELL**, succeeded to the lands of Fordell on the death of his cousin Ann Henderson in 1844, and *dsp* at Cavendish Square, London, on Wednesday 13 October 1852, aged 73 years.<sup>3</sup>

4a) **DOUGLAS MERCER HENDERSON OF FORDELL**, succeeded his brother George and was served his heir in the lands of Fordell on 14 November 1853. He *m.* on 2 November, 1820, Susan Arabella, second daughter of Sir William Rowley, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baronet,<sup>4</sup> (she *d.* at Eaton Place, London, on Wednesday 5 March 1862<sup>5</sup>). He *d.* at Palazza Valle Chiaja, Naples, Italy, on 21 March 1854,<sup>6</sup> and was father of :

4b) **GEORGE WILLIAM MERCER HENDERSON OF FORDELL**, succeeded his father and was served his heir on 5 March 1855. He *m.* at Moray Place, Edinburgh, on 16 April 1868, to Alice Jane, daughter of Bouverie Primrose,<sup>7</sup> and *dsp* at Fordell House on 17 October 1881.<sup>8</sup>

4b) Douglas Mercer, *b.* on 4 April 1826.

4b) Robert Philip Mercer, *b.* on 8 February 1829, and *d.* at Teddington, Middlesex, on 10 March 1855.<sup>9</sup>

4b) **EDITH ISABELLA MERCER HENDERSON OF FORDELL**, *b.* on 15 February 1825, and *m.* at Fordell on Thursday 26 April 1866, to Hew Adam Dalrymple Hamilton Haldane Duncan, son of Robert Dundas Duncan-Haldane, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Camperdown.<sup>10</sup> She *d.* on 24 February 1902, having had issue :

4c) **GEORGIANA WILHELMINA HALDANE-DUNCAN MERCER HENDERSON OF FORDELL**, *b.* 15 April, 1867, and *m.* 13 June, 1888, Sidney Carr Hobart Hampden, 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Buckinghamshire, who, by Royal Licence, changed his name to Mercer Henderson. She *d.* on 26 March, 1937. They had issue :

<sup>1</sup> Scots Magazine. 1<sup>st</sup> December 1776, edition.

<sup>2</sup> Aberdeen Journal. 25<sup>th</sup> May 1814, edition.

<sup>3</sup> Morning Post. 16<sup>th</sup> October 1852, edition.

<sup>4</sup> Scots Magazine. 1<sup>st</sup> January 1821, edition.

<sup>5</sup> Morning Post. 10<sup>th</sup> March 1862, edition.

<sup>6</sup> Aberdeen Journal. 12<sup>th</sup> April 1854, edition.

<sup>7</sup> Statutory record. See also, Greenock Advertiser. 18<sup>th</sup> April 1868, edition.

<sup>8</sup> Statutory record. See also Fife Herald. 20<sup>th</sup> October 1881, edition.

<sup>9</sup> Morning Post. 19<sup>th</sup> March 1855, edition.

<sup>10</sup> Statutory record. See also Dunfermline Saturday Press. 28<sup>th</sup> April 1866, edition.



- 4d} **JOHN HAMPDEN MERCER HENDERSON, 8<sup>TH</sup> EARL OF BUCKINGHAMHIRE**, *b.* 16 April, 1906. He succeeded to the Fordell estate which he divided and sold off to various parties with the castle and ruined house being purchased by Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, M.P., in 1961. He *dsp* unmarried on 2 January 1963.
- 4d} Dorothy Edith Isabel Hobart Hampden, *b.* 11 April, 1891, and *m.* on 6 July, 1911, Claud Hope-Morely. She *d.* on 15 December, 1972.
- 4d} Sidney Mary Catherine Anne Hobart-Hampden, *b.* 17 April, 1900, and *m.* on 14 January, 1924, to Captain Thomas Innis Farrar. She *d.* in 1987.
5. Elizabeth Henderson, *m.* at Edinburgh on 12 April 1784, to Captain William Lockhart, eldest son of Lord Covington.
6. Isabella Henderson, *c.* at Edinburgh on 3 March, 1758.
7. Maria Henderson,
8. Frances Henderson, *m.* on 2 August 1824, to Robert Lindsay, and *d.* on 13 May 1865. She had issue.
9. Christian Henderson, *d.* at Aberdour on 30 April 1852, in the 90<sup>th</sup> year of her age.<sup>1</sup>

He was also father of several natural children :

2. John Francis Wheatley, became a teacher in France and *m.* there in 1817 to a daughter of Dr. William.
3. Maria Wheatley,
4. Emilia Elizabeth Henderson,
5. Robert Strickland Henderson,
6. Charlotte Strickland Henderson, resided at Madras and *m.* in 1840 to Dr. Alexander Lorimer.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Morning Post. 5<sup>th</sup> May 1852, edition.

<sup>2</sup> GD172/112