

SYMMER

OF BALZEORDIE

WILLIAM SYMMER OF BALZEORDIE, is first found in record on 21 July 1450, when he was a member of the inquest to determine the right to hold a weekly market at Brechin and the liberty of the wasters of Esk and Tay.¹ He had the following charters (1) under the Great Seal for the lands of Brechow and Crook and the fourth part of the Mill of Menmuir, dated 23 August 1455, following upon a resignation made in his favour by Andrew Campbell² (2) from Walter Ogilvy of Deskford for the quarter of the half lands of Balzeordie on 27 January 1457 (3) from John Smith, Citizen of Brechin, for the Hermitage of St. Mary of Kilgerre, in the barony of Memuir, on 8 August 1461.³ He was present at the retour of Majory de Strachan as heir to her sister Elizabeth de Strachan in the lands of Kingenny on 16 April 1464,⁴ *d.* prior to 27 November 1470, and was father of,

GEORGE SYMMER OF BALZEORDIE, succeeded his father and as his heir he had a Precept of Clare Constat from the superior Sir James Ogilvy of Findlater for infefting him in the lands of Balzeordie on 27 November 1470. He was one of those chosen by the Lords of Council to inventory the goods belonging to Walter Ogilvy of Owres in June of 1478, *m.* Christian Guthrie, and *d.* prior May of 1483, being father of,

1. **JOHN SYMMER OF BALZEORDIE**, who succeeded his father and *d.* without apparent issue prior to 6 May 1483, when his brother Thomas was infeft in the lands of Balzeordie as his heir.
2. Thomas Symmer of Balzeordie, (*see below*).
3. Allan Symmer, who was father of,

¹ Reg. Brechin. No. 42.

² NRAS792/9/5. Balzeordie papers 1455-1750.

³ Carnegie Charters. No. 72

⁴ GD137/1

3a) George Symmer, included in a remission with his cousin George Symmer of Balzeordie for the murder of Thomas Collace dated 22 April 1502.¹

THOMAS SYMMER OF BALZEORDIE, succeeded his brother John Symmer in the lands of Balzeordie and as heir of whom he was infeft in the lands of Balzeordie, Chapelton and others on 6 May 1483.² He had a charter under the Great Seal for the forest of Kilgary on 23 March 1500,³ *d.* prior to 6 September 1529 and was father of,

GEORGE SYMMER OF BALZEORDIE, had a gift of the ward etc of the lands of Balzeordie which had been in the King's hands due to non-entry on 6 September 1529, and is then styled as son and heir to the deceased Thomas Symmer of Balzeordie.⁴ He was infeft in the lands of Balzeordie as heir to his father on 1 April 1531, was a member of the assize at the retour of William Tyrie of Drumkilbo as heir to his grandfather Walter Tyrie in the half lands of Lunan, on 13 April 1532, and *m.* Margaret Straiton. He *d.* prior to 1577, and was father of,

1. George Symmer of Balzeordie, (*see below*).
2. James Symmer, styled as brother to the Laird of Balzeordie when witness to a Precept of Clare Constat by Archibald Bethune, Archeacon of Lothian, for infefting Agnes Heriot as lawful heir of the deceased Mr. Robert Heriot of Lumphoy, her father, on 26 February 1566.⁵
3. David Symmer, included in a remission dated 12 May 1584, for having been involved in the murder of John and David Low, brothers, in Brechin, in 1577.⁶

GEORGE SYMMER OF BALZEORDIE, in whose favour his father made grants parts of the lands of Balzeordie and others, which were confirmed under the Great Seal on 21

¹ RPS Vol. I. No. 807.

² NRAS792/9/5

³ RMS 1424-1513. No. 2530.

⁴ RPS Vol. II. No. 231.

⁵ GD1/208/18

⁶ RPS Vol. VIII. No. 2085.

November and 24 November 1556.¹ He *m.* by November 1556, to Christine Arbuthnott and was father of,

1. George Symmer of Balzeordie, (*see below*).
2. Robert Symmer, *k.* David Graham, son to James Graham of Leuchland, by running him through with a rapier on 29 April 1616, and for which he was sentenced to be beheaded at the mercat cross of Edinburgh and his goods escheated.² He *m.* Janet Ogilvy and was father of,
 - 2a) George Symmer, was educated at King's College, Aberdeen, from where he graduated Master of Arts in 1604. He *m.* Jean Arbuthnott and was *k.* in Dundee in March of 1653.
3. Helen Symmer, *m.* John Mortimer, eldest son and heir of James Mortimer, younger of Craigievar, (*c/m* 1598³).

GEORGE SYMMER OF BALZEORDIE, was witness to a charter by his father granting the lands of Halton of Memure to John Symmer of Brakinche on 29 March 1584.⁴ He *m.* Magdalen, daughter of John Strachan of Thornton, (*c/m* 6 July 1582), and in implementation of which his father granted the lands of Balzeordie to them on 18 September 1583. He was father of,

GEORGE SYMMER, FIAR OF BALZEORDIE, *m.* Margaret, daughter of William Graham, 4th of Claverhouse, and in contemplation of his marriage he had a charter from his father for the lands of Balzeordie in 1606.⁵ *d. vita patris* by 19 December 1616, when Margaret Graham, his relict, had a charter from Robert Arbutnott of Findowrie for the liferent of the lands of Wester Inzievar, in contemplation of their marriage.⁶ He was father of,

GEORGE SYMMER OF BALZORDIE, succeeded his father and *m.* Mariot, daughter of Alexander Burnett of Leys. He was father of,

¹ RMS 1546-1580. No. 1116 & 1117.

² Pitcairn's Criminal Trials.

³ RMS 1594-1608. No. 1037.

⁴ RMS 1580-1593. No. 817

⁵ MS3064/1/1/21a/1/4

⁶ GD15/633

1. Robert Symmer of Balzordie, (*see below*).
2. John Symmer, *m.* Margaret, daughter of David Livingston of Balcour, (*c/m* 6 August 1670¹), and was father of,
 - 2a) Patrick Symmer, was served heir to his father on 12 September 1730.

ROBERT SYMMER OF BALZORDIE, was father of,

GEORGE SYMMER OF BALZORDIE, had a charter under the Great Seal for the lands of Balzeordie on 14 March 1704, and *m.* Magdalen Campbell. He was father of,

1. **COLIN SYMMER OF BALZEORDIE**, succeeded his father and *dsp.*
2. **MAGDALEN SYMMER**, was served heir to (1) her great-grandfather George Symmer of Balzordie on 25 February 1736 (2) her grandfather Robert Symmer of Balzordie and (3) her father George Symmer of Balzordie on 20 December 1737. She *m.* David Doig of Cookston, and had issue which succeeded to the lands of Balzeordie.

¹ RH15/40/16