

The arms used by Henry Charteris, Merchant, Bookseller and Printer in Edinburgh, being: a shield of arms: On a fess a crescent all within a royal tressure,¹ prove his descent from a second son of Charteris of Kinfauns whose arms were: A fess within a royal tressure.² Although the precise details of this relationship are uncertain, it is probable that their shared ancestor was Sir William Charteris, 4th of Cagnore and Kinfauns who died in 1479. With the extinction of the senior male line of Charteris of Kinfauns in about 1590, representation in the male line passed to the descendants of;

John Charteris, who was admitted to Burgess of Edinburgh in right of his wife, a daughter of John Kirkpatrick, on 17 March 1522/23.³ He was appointed Dean of Guild and on 14 June 1559 when requested by the brethren to take certain *jowallis ornamentis and siluer werk of the hye alter to be suirlie kept be him now in this trublous tyme*, he declined on the basis of his being *agit, seyklie, haveand na bodye with him in his hows bot his wyt and seruing weming, and in cace the samin wer inuadit the saidis gudis being thairintill he wer nocht habill to resist, and forther he wes nocht responsabill for the awaill of thame*.⁴ He died after June 1559 and before February 1566-67, and was father of,

1. John Charteris, (*see below*).
2. Henry Charteris, who had the gift of the office of “tronarschip of the burgh of Edinburgh” on 3 February 1566/67, and is then styled son of the deceased John Charteris, senior.⁵

¹ Scottish Heraldic Seals. In cadency a crescent generally denotes a second son. Descent from Charteris of Aimsfield is ruled out on account of their arms never having carried a tressure. The tressure was exclusively used by Charteris of Kinfauns and their cadet, Charteris of Cuthilgurdie whose difference was a star to denote descent from a third son.

² Scottish Heraldic Seals.

³ SRS Edinburgh Burgess Roll.

⁴ Edinburgh Burgh Records.

⁵ RPS Vol. V. Pt. II. No. 3197.

John Charteris, who became a merchant in Edinburgh and was admitted to Burgess there in right of his father on 17 May 1554.⁶ He died by April 1573 and was father of,

1. Archibald Charteris, who was admitted to Burgess in right of his father on 9 March 1590/91, and is then styled his eldest son.⁷ He became a Merchant in that city and was father of,

1a} John Charteris, who became a Merchant in Edinburgh and was admitted to Burgess of that city in right of his deceased father on 19 November 1617.⁸

2. Henry Charteris, (*see below*).

Henry Charteris, became a Merchant, Bookseller and Printer in Edinburgh and was admitted to Burgess of that city in right of his father on 22 April 1573, being then styled his second son.⁹ He was quick to embrace printing and bookselling and initially had works printed for him by John Scott, Robert Lekprevick, Thomas Vaurollier, and then John Ross. Following the death of Ross in 1580 he took over the plant and began printing for himself. He married Catherine Ker, died on 29 August 1599 and was father of,

1. Henry Charteris, (*see below*).

2. Robert Charteris, who was admitted to Burgess of Edinburgh in right of his deceased father on 31 August 1602, being then styled his second son.¹⁰ Following his father's death he took over his printing business and was appointed King's Printer on 8 December 1603 although this was revoked in

⁶ SRS Edinburgh Burgess Roll.

⁷ SRS Edinburgh Burgess Roll.

⁸ SRS Edinburgh Burgess Roll.

⁹ SRS Edinburgh Burgess Roll.

¹⁰ SRS Edinburgh Burgess Roll.

1612 on account of being put to the horn for debt. He married at Edinburgh, on 26 January 1602, to Margaret Wallace.¹¹

3. Thomas Charteris, who became a merchant in Edinburgh and Paris¹² and was admitted to Burgess of Edinburgh in right of his deceased father on 18 August 1624.¹³ He was father of,

3a) Mr. Henry Charteris, was served heir to his father in a tenement in Edinburgh on 28 July 1648,¹⁴ then as heir general on 26 February 1653.¹⁵

Henry Charteris, was educated at the University of Edinburgh from where he graduated Master of Arts in 1587. He was served heir general to his father on 27 November 1599¹⁶ and was appointed Rector of Edinburgh University on the deathbed recommendation of Robert Rollock, the Rector, which he resigned on 20 March 1620, having been called to be minister of North Leith. He was appointed Professor of Divinity at that same University on 19 April 1628 and was admitted to Burgess of Edinburgh in right of his deceased father on 26 October 1602, being then styled his eldest son.¹⁷ He died in July 1628 having married at Edinburgh, on 8 September 1602, to Agnes Mason.¹⁸ He was father of,

1. Mr. John Charteris, (*see below*).
2. Henry Charteris, was apprenticed to James Stratoun, Writer to the Signet, and was admitted a W.S. on 29 July 1633. He married at Edinburgh, on 14 November 1632, to Mause Henryson,¹⁹ died in October 1641²⁰ and was father of,

¹¹ OPR – Canongate, Edinburgh.

¹² GD3/2/24/6.

¹³ SRS Edinburgh Burgess Roll.

¹⁴ C22/19/74.

¹⁵ C22/21/113.

¹⁶ C22/2/3.

¹⁷ SRS Edinburgh Burgess Roll.

¹⁸ OPR – Edinburgh.

¹⁹ OPR – Edinburgh.

- 2a) Laurence Charteris, baptised at Edinburgh, on 22 September 1639.
- 2a) Charles Charteris, baptised at Edinburgh, on 15 September 1633 and was served heir to his father in a tenement in Edinburgh on 30 June 1646,²¹ then to his mother on 24 February 1653.²² He was apprenticed to Laurence Henrierson, Merchant in Edinburgh, on 2 June 1647 and was admitted to Burgess of Edinburgh in right of his master on 6 November 1661.²³ He married, firstly, at Edinburgh, on 3 June 1662, to Janet Marjoribanks²⁴ and had issue ; and secondly, at Kilwinning, on 27 July 1678, to Margaret, daughter of Mr. Ralph Rodger, Minister in Glasgow,²⁵ (she was buried in the Greyfriars, Edinburgh, on 8 October 1686²⁶), and had further issue. He was buried in Greyfriars Kirk, Edinburgh, on 3 June 1700²⁷ was father of,
- 2b) Henry Charteris, baptised at Edinburgh, on 19 March 1665.
- 2b) John Charteris, baptised at Edinburgh, on 9 January 1668 and was buried in the Greyfriars, Edinburgh, on 20 May 1700.²⁸
- 2b) Laurence Charteris, baptised at Edinburgh, on 1 June 1672.
- 2b) Charles Charteris, baptised at Edinburgh, on 3 October 1675.
- 2b) Elizabeth Charteris, baptised at Edinburgh, on 10 January 1664.
- 2b) Isobel Charteris, baptised at Edinburgh, on 9 September 1666 and was buried in the Greyfriars, Edinburgh, on 14 June 1685.²⁹

²⁰ Edinburgh Tests.

²¹ C22/19/73.

²² C22/21/93.

²³ SRS Edinburgh Burgess Roll.

²⁴ OPR – Edinburgh.

²⁵ OPR – Kilwinning.

²⁶ Greyfriars Burial Register.

²⁷ Greyfriars Burial Register. A further four of his children were buried in the Greyfriars between 1671 and 1687 although their Christian names are not given in the individual entries.

²⁸ Greyfriars Burial Register.

²⁹ Greyfriars Burial Register.

- 2b) Marion Charteris, baptised at Edinburgh on 21 January 1670 and died young.
- 2b) Janet Charteris, baptised at Edinburgh, on 10 May 1674 and married at Edinburgh, on 3 June 1702, to Mr Alexander Nisbet, Chirurgeon Apothecary in Edinburgh.³⁰
- 2b) Marion Charteris, baptised at Edinburgh, on 9 February 1677 and was buried in the Greyfriars, Edinburgh, on 26 March 1698.³¹
- 2b) Ralph Charteris, who was served heir to his maternal grandfather, Mr. Ralph Rodger, in portions of the lands of Stevenston, in Ayrshire, on 10 May 1709.³²
- 2b) Laurence Charteris, baptised at Edinburgh, on 4 December 1685.
- 2b) Mause Charteris, baptised at Edinburgh, on 11 Novemebr 1684.
- 2a) Mr. Henry Charteris, baptised at Edinburgh, on 2 October 1640 and was admitted to Burgess of Edinburgh in right of his father on 18 April 1677.³³
- 2a) Barbara Charteris, baptised at Edinburgh, on 9 October 1636.
- 2a) Agnes Charteris, baptised at Edinburgh, on 26 September 1637.
- 2a) Rebecca Charteris, baptised at Edinburgh on 20 September 1638.
- 2a) Bessie Charteris, baptised at Edinburgh, on 29 March 1642.
- 3. William Charteris, baptised at Edinburgh, on 18 February 1610.
- 4. Rachel Charteris, baptised at Edinburgh, on 16 April 1612.
- 5. Catherine Charteris, baptised at Edinburgh, on 10 May 1614.

Mr. John Charteris, was educated at the University of Edinburgh from where he graduated Master of Arts on 25 July 1624 and was admitted Minister of Currie before 17 June 1631. He was served heir to his father in an annualrent of 20

³⁰ OPR – Edinburgh.

³¹ Greyfriars Burial Register.

³² Services of Heirs.

³³ SRS Edinburgh Burgess Roll.

shillings from a tenement in Edinburgh on 17 March 1629³⁴ and was admitted to Burgess of Edinburgh in right of him on 2 June 1647.³⁵ He *m.* at Edinburgh, on 26 September 1633, to Rebecca, second daughter of Laurence Henderson, Merchant Burgess of Edinburgh,³⁶ (*c/m* 30 August 1633.³⁷ She survived him and was buried in the Greyfriars, Edinburgh, on 26 March 1676³⁸). He died on 14 February 1668 being buried in the Greyfriars, Edinburgh, on the 16th following,³⁹ and was father of,

1. Laurence Charteris, (*see below*).
2. John Charteris, who was admitted to Burgess of Edinburgh in right of his deceased father on 1 July 1674.⁴⁰ He was served an heir general to his nephew, Laurence Charteris, son of his brother, Laurence Charteris, Advocate, on 7 February 1682⁴¹ then to that brother on 14 February 1682.⁴²
3. Isobel Charteris, baptised at Edinburgh, on 26 August 1635.
4. Rebecca Charteris, baptised at Currie, on 4 October 1657.

Laurence Charteris, baptised at Edinburgh, on 26 November 1637 and became an Advocate. He *m.* at Edinburgh, on 11 November 1670, to Barbara, second daughter of Mr. Laurence Scott of Bavailaw,⁴³ (*c/m* 11 November 1670⁴⁴), and

³⁴ C22/10/142.

³⁵ SRS Edinburgh Burgess Roll.

³⁶ OPR – Edinburgh.

³⁷ RH15/59/7.

³⁸ Greyfriars Burial Register.

³⁹ Greyfriars Burial Register.

⁴⁰ SRS Edinburgh Burgess Roll.

⁴¹ C22/36/103.

⁴² C22/36/103.

⁴³ OPR – Edinburgh.

⁴⁴ RH15/59/7.

died on 19 August 1676,⁴⁵ being buried in the Greyfriars, Edinburgh, on 21st following.⁴⁶ He was father of,

1. John Charteris, baptised at Edinburgh, on 6 October 1672.
2. Laurence Charteris, baptised at Edinburgh on 15 February 1674 and was served heir general to his father on 19 December 1676.⁴⁷ He died without issue by 7 February 1682 when his uncle, John Charteris, and his sister, Catherine, were served heirs general to him.⁴⁸
3. Rebecca Charteris, baptised at Edinburgh, on 15 September 1671 and died young.
4. Catherine Charteris, baptised at Edinburgh, on 2 March 1675 and was served heir to her brother, Laurence, on 10 February 1682. She married, at Edinburgh, on 11 April 1697, to Alexander Hay of Aulhamstocks.⁴⁹
5. Rebecca Charteris, baptised at Edinburgh, on 4 April 1676 and died young.

To be continued.....

⁴⁵ Edinburgh Tests.

⁴⁶ Greyfriars Burial Register.

⁴⁷ C22/33/67.

⁴⁸ C22/36/103.

⁴⁹ OPR – Edinburgh.