

# MERCER

## OF ALDIE AND MEIKLEOUR

**BERNARD MERCER**, was a Burgess of Perth and is so-styled when he and other burgesses and aldermen of that city gave homage to Edward, I. of England, at Berwick-on-Tweed, on 28 August 1296 on behalf of that whole community.<sup>1</sup> He was father of :

**THOMAS MERCER**, held property from the Abbey of Scone in 1341 and in 1345 had an order from King Edward III. of England to raise men and horses for military service overseas in Aquitaine. He was father of :

**JOHN MERCER, 1<sup>ST</sup> OF MEIKLEOUR AND ALDIE**, was elected Provost of Perth and in 1352 he had a quitclaim from John de Menteith, sheriff of Clackmannan, of all rights he had to the ward and relief of the lands of the late Sir William de Moray of Tullibardine, together with the right to an annualrent to be uplifted from the lands of Petver and Aldie.<sup>2</sup> On 26 September 1357, he was appointed one of the ambassadors for negotiating the terms of David II's release<sup>3</sup> and he sat in the General Council of Scotland from 1364 until 1367.

His extensive trade with Flanders is well documented and shortly before 18 October 1377, he and a son and their servants were taken prisoner by the English when at Cherbourg and taken to Hull. They were given over to Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, for safe custody,<sup>4</sup> who, on 24 November following, in recompense for his expenses in bringing them from Grimsby to London, was allowed goods to that amount from the cargo aboard John's ships.<sup>5</sup> He was given

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<sup>1</sup> Cal. Docs. Scot. Vol. II. P. 197.

<sup>2</sup> HMC Atholl Papers. No. 10.

<sup>3</sup> E39.

<sup>4</sup> Cal. Docs. Scot. Vol. IV. No. 244.

<sup>5</sup> Cal. Docs. Scot. Vol. IV. No. 248.

a safe conduct in December of that year to endure until the following 1 May to conduct “affairs of the Kingdoms” but that they should not prejudice his re-entrance to confinement in Alnwick castle at Pentecost next.<sup>1</sup> He was *d.* by 1380 when he is styled deceased in a receipt to his son, Andrew, for repayment of his late father’s loan of £224 Scots from the King.<sup>2</sup>

He *m.* Ada, daughter of Sir Andrew de Moray, 2<sup>nd</sup> of Tullibardine, and acquired the lands of Aldie and Meikleour from Maruice Drummond of Concraig by charter dated 2 March 1361x1362,<sup>3</sup> then those of Petland, in the barony of Strathurd, from the Earl of Douglas which were confirmed to him under the Great Seal.<sup>4</sup> He was father of,

1. Andrew Mercer, 2<sup>nd</sup> of Meikleour, (*see below*).
2. Thomas Mercer, who is generally accepted to have been a younger son of Mercer of Meikour. He was a Canon of Glasgow and had *d.* by 11 October 1395 when Thomas de Kinghorn was granted his canonry.<sup>5</sup>

**SIR ANDREW MERCER, 2<sup>ND</sup> OF MEIKLEOUR**, who, with his father, had a charter from the Abbey of Scone of land in the “*Street of the Saddler in Perth*” on 10 February 1353/54<sup>6</sup> and acquired those of Dalkeith from David, Earl of Strathearn, Strathearn, in 1371. He also acquired the lands of Ballayach and the office of Bailie of the sheriffdom of Kinross which were confirmed to him by King Robert II. in around 1380.<sup>7</sup> He had been knighted by 1384<sup>8</sup> and was steward of the King’s house by 1388 when he received payments for such,<sup>9</sup> and *d.* in 1389 when

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<sup>1</sup> Cal. Docs. Scot. Vol. IV. No. 253. He is then styled “of St. John’s town”.

<sup>2</sup> Ex. Rolls. Vol. III. P. 652.

<sup>3</sup> RH1/25/125.

<sup>4</sup> RMS David II. See Robertson’s index.

<sup>5</sup> SHS Papal Letters to Scotland of Benedict XIII of Avignon 1394-1419. PP. 387.

<sup>6</sup> Cart. Scone. PP. 127-128.

<sup>7</sup> Robertson’s Index.

<sup>8</sup> Ex. Rolls. Vol. III. P. 119.

<sup>9</sup> Ex. Rolls. Vol. III. P. 170.

when the ward of his lands was conveyed by the King to Walter Stewart of Brechin.<sup>1</sup>

He *m.* Janet Barclay and was father of,

1. Sir Michael Mercer, 3<sup>rd</sup> of Meikelour, (*see below*).
2. Peter Mercer, *m.* Matilda, daughter of Sir Bernard Haldane of Gleneagles, for which a dispensation was procured on 19 May 1410 on account of his having previously “carnally known” both an Elizabeth de Manuel and Isobel Oliphant.<sup>2</sup>
3. Robert Mercer, who is said to have *m.* the heiress of Innerpeffray with whom he acquired those extensive lands but there is no evidence for that. He was father of :

2a) Robert Mercer of Innerpeffray, succeeded his father in the lands of Innerpeffrey and Dollerie and granted a charter giving permission for the Monks of Inchaffray to fish for eels at Polpeffrey on 24 June 1454. He was in Flanders with Thomas Blair of Balthayock on 17 November 1460, when they had a safe conduct to pass through England on their return home<sup>3</sup> and disposed his lands of Easter and Wester Dollerie to Patrick Murray which was confirmed under the Great Seal on 19 June 1467,<sup>4</sup> followed by those of Logan and the quarter-part of the lands of Dumfally to Thomas Oliphant of Dron in 1468.<sup>5</sup> He is styled nephew to Andrew Mercer of Inchbraikie when that person conveyed his wadset right to the lands of Inchbraikie to his son, Peter, on 19 March 1462/3<sup>6</sup> and *m.* a woman by the name of Janet but whose surnamed and family is known not. He *d.* by March of 1478 and was father of,

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<sup>1</sup> Ex. Rolls. Vol. III. P. 218.

<sup>2</sup> SHS Papal Letters to Scotland of Benedict XIII of Avignon 1394-1419. PP. 221-222.

<sup>3</sup> Cal. Docs. Scot. Vol. IV. No. 1311.

<sup>4</sup> RMS 1424-1513. No. 923.

<sup>5</sup> RMS 1424-1513. No. 947.

<sup>6</sup> GD220/1/A/1/9/8.

- 2d) Alexander Mercer, who is styled heir to his father when included in a license his father granted to the Monks at Inchaffray allowing them to fish at Polpeffrey, on 10 July 1454.<sup>1</sup> He *dsp* before March of 1478.
- 2b) David Mercer, 2<sup>nd</sup> of Innerpeffray, succeeded his father and appealed to the Lords Auditors on 13 March 1478 with regard to a debt due to him by John Oliphant of Dron.<sup>2</sup> He excambioned his lands of Innerpeffray for those of West Clathie with Laurence, Lord Oliphant, in 1483, and had issue,
- 2c) William Mercer,
  - 2c) Vincent Mercer,
  - 2c) Andrew Mercer, was a servant in the household of King James IV. and tenant of the crown lands of Bachilton in 1513.
  - 2c) George Mercer, became a Burgess and Baillie of Perth.
  - 2c) James Mercer, all of whom are styled sons to David Mercer of Innerpeffray in a reversion by their father to Laurence, 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Oliphant, dated 10 May 1483.<sup>3</sup>

3. Andrew Mercer, 1<sup>st</sup> of Inchrbaikie, (*see Mercer of Inchrbaikie*).

**SIR MICHEAL MERCER, 3<sup>RD</sup> OF MEIKELOUR**, *b.* in 1379 and being under age at his father's death in 1389, he was placed into the care of Walter Stewart, Lord Brechin, son of King Robert II. on 26 February 1391 where he remained until 5 July 1402. He *m.* Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Stewart of Durrisdeer, and sister to Sir David Stewart of Rosyth, (*c/m* 8 April 1396<sup>4</sup>), and *d.* after 17 May 1438, when he witnessed a resignation by John Ireland of Burnbane to Donald

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<sup>1</sup> Inchaffray Charters. No. 148.

<sup>2</sup> Acta Dom Conc. – 1478.

<sup>3</sup> Gask Charters, No. 37.

<sup>4</sup> RH9/4/2/36.

MacNaughton, Dean of Dunkeld, of two crofts in the town of Cluny,<sup>1</sup> and by March 1443/44. He had issue,

1. Andrew Mercer, 4<sup>th</sup> of Meikleour, (*see below*).
2. Robert Mercer, 1<sup>st</sup> of Balleif, gave a Bond of Manrent to Laurence, 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Oliphant, on 6 August 1468 and became a Burgess and Provost of Perth. He *m.* Margaret, daughter and co-heiress of Baldwin of Seres, with whom he is named in a decree by the Lords Auditors on 11 June 1478, who adjudged that they must pay Walter de Tyrie of Lunan as heir to his grandfather, James Tyrie, for those goods taken from him by the late Baldwin of Seres,<sup>2</sup> and *d.* by 9 August 1505, having had issue,

2a) Robert Mercer, 2<sup>nd</sup> of Ballief, who was under age at his father's death with his ward being gifted to Laurence Mercer of Meikleour on 9 August 1505.<sup>3</sup> He had Sasine for the lands of Hilton Malar and Petcairn in 1508<sup>4</sup> and was of age on 21 June 1511 when he disposed his lands of Hilton of Malar to Robert, Lord Crichton. He *m.* Margaret Moncrieff, who survived him and had a precept on 6 September 1517, for a tenement in the burgh of Perth,<sup>5</sup> and *d.* by May of 1514, most likely at the battle of Flodden in September 1513, having had issue,

2b) Robert Mercer, 3<sup>rd</sup> of Balleif, succeeded his father and was served heir to him on 2 May 1514. He *m.* firstly, to a daughter of Anderson of Culgask, and secondly, to Margaret Omay and was father of,

2c) Henry Mercer, 4<sup>th</sup> of Balleif, succeeded his father and *dsp* on 26 August 1577. His cousin, Alexander Bunsche, was served heir to him on 21 January 1578.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> GD16/5/1.

<sup>2</sup> PA2/2/f. 57v.

<sup>3</sup> RPS Vol. I. No. 1119.

<sup>4</sup> Ex. Rolls. Vol. XIII. P. 658.

<sup>5</sup> PS1/5/119.

<sup>6</sup> GD79/6/93.

2a) Elizabeth Mercer, *m.* firstly by 9 November 1507, to Andrew Bunsche, Burgess of Perth,<sup>1</sup> and secondly by 16 October 1517, to Alexander MacBreck, Burgess of Perth, when they granted instruments narrating that they had received a sum of money for the redemption of the lands of Cragan and Easter Keilour from Robert Douglas of Lochleven. By her two husbands she had issue :

2b) Alexander Bunche, is styled son to his mother in an instrument by his mother and Alexander MacBreck, her second husband, dated 16 October 1517 by which they confirmed receipt of a certain sum from Robert Douglas of Lochleven for the redemption of the lands of Easter Keilour.<sup>2</sup> He *m.* by 1 August 1526, to Isabel Brown when they had a charter for the lands of Legertlaw from his stepfather, Alexander MacBreck, and was father of :

2c) Alexander Bunsche, was served heir to Henry Mercer of Ballief “*grandson of his grandmother’s brother*” on 21 January 1577/78<sup>3</sup> and *dsp* in around 1606.

2b) \_\_\_\_\_ MacBreck, who was father of,

2c) Alexander MacBrek, became a burgess of Perth and was served heir to his great-uncle, Robert Mercer of Ballief, in the lands of Ballief on 18 November 1606.<sup>4</sup>

**ANDREW MERCER, 4<sup>TH</sup> OF MEIKLEOUR**, succeeded his father and on 31 March 1443/44, he had a charter under the Great Seal confirming the lands of Balleyfe, Ballachouse, Culcarny, Kynnarde, Mekilloure, Aldie, Dalketh, Tulibagill, Dunberny, Kilgraston and Lyndoche which the king then erected into a free barony.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> GD150/1139.

<sup>2</sup> GD150/1141.

<sup>3</sup> GD79/6/93.

<sup>4</sup> C22/4/86.

<sup>5</sup> RMS 1424-1513. No. 286.

He *m.* Margaret Drummond, apparently daughter of Sir Walter Drummond of Cargill and Stobhall, (she survived him and had *m.* secondly, by 20 March 1482, to Duncan Campbell, when the Lords Auditors adjudged that she was not entitled to her terce of the lands of Dunbarney as her late husband, Andrew Mercer, had not been infeft in the fee of them at the time of his death<sup>1</sup>), and *d.* in 1472/73. He was father of,

1. Sir Laurence Mercer, 5<sup>th</sup> of Meikleour, (*see below*).
2. Robert Mercer, was admitted to Burgess and Guild of Perth on 25 October 1466<sup>2</sup> and was one of the witnesses to a Bond of Manrent by his uncle, Robert Mercer of Balleif, in favour of Laurence, 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Oliphant, on 6 August 1468.<sup>3</sup>
3. Christian Mercer, *m.* firstly, by 23 May 1481, to Gilbert Skene of that Ilk, when they had a conjunct charter under the Great Seal for the lands of Aldloch and Tullivale,<sup>4</sup> and had issue; and secondly by 17 July 1505, to Duncan Forbes in Skene.<sup>5</sup>

**SIR LAURENCE MERCER, 5<sup>TH</sup> OF MEIKLEOUR**, had succeeded his father and been knighted by 4 August 1473 when he is included with Laurence, Lord Oliphant, and others, in a decree by the Lords of Council by which they were adjudged to repay £41 to William, Earl of Errol, and John of Ford, his tenant,<sup>6</sup> and witnessed a charter by Walter Ogilvy of Oures, with consent of Laurence, Lord Oliphant, his nephew, granting the lands of Gallantoune and Newton, in the barony of Oures, in favour of Gilbert de Hay of Ury on 16 January 1475.

He *m.* Isabella, daughter of Henry Wardlaw of Torrie, (she survived him and *m.* secondly, in 1504, to Patrick Mercer, 2<sup>nd</sup> of Inchbraikie), to whom he granted a

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<sup>1</sup> PA2/3/f.10r.

<sup>2</sup> SRS Perth Guildry Book. No. 109.

<sup>3</sup> Gask Papers, Advocate's Library. Printed Oliphants in Scotland. In both entries he is styled son to Andrew Mercer of Meikleour.

<sup>4</sup> RMS 1424-1513. No. 1476.

<sup>5</sup> RMS 1424-1513. No. 2862.

<sup>6</sup> PA2/1/f.111v.

liferent of the lands of Easter and Wester Aldy, Powmill, with the mill thereof, Dunbarny and Pitcathlie, Tulebaglis and Lednoch all in the barony of Meikleour on 14 July 1475 and in which she is styled daughter of the deceased Henry Wardlaw of Torrie,<sup>1</sup> and *d.* in 1501. He was father of :

1. Sir Henry Mercer, 6<sup>th</sup> of Meikleour, (*see below*).
2. Robert Mercer of Newton, acquired the lands of Ochertyre and Newton of Forgandenny and had a charter for those of Carnbo-Stewart from Thomas Stewart of Grantully on 17 March 1533 in which he is styled son of the deceased Sir Laurence Mercer of Meikelour.<sup>2</sup> He had issue, (*see Mercer of Newton & Potterhill*).
3. Isabel Mercer, *m.* Sir Thomas Maule of Panmure, (he survived her and *m.* secondly, to Isabel, daughter of James Arbuthnott of that Ilk, who was then widow of David Ochterlony of Kellie, and *d.* on 2 May 1560) and *d.* on 30 April 1540. They had issue.
4. Egedia Mercer, *m.* Gilbert Gray of Buttergask, (he *d.* by 1541), and had issue.
5. Margaret Mercer, *m.* John Clephane of Carselogie, and had issue.
6. A daughter, who is said to have *m.* David Sibbald of Over Rankeilour, and had issue.

**SIR HENRY MERCER, 6<sup>TH</sup> OF MEIKLEOUR**, succeeded his father and in favour of whom a precept for his infetment in the lands of Meikleour, Aldie, Balleif, Culcairney, Kilgraston and others was issued by the chancery in 1501.<sup>3</sup> He had a charter under the Great Seal for of Meikelour, Balleif, Culcarny, Kinnaird, Aldie, Pitkeathly, Kilgraston and others, on 5 March 1505 which were then erected into the barony of Meikelour.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> RMS 1424-1513. No. 2167.

<sup>2</sup> C2/25/114.

<sup>3</sup> Ex Rolls. Vol. XI. P. 645.

<sup>4</sup> RMS 1424-1513. No. 2837.



He *m.* Margaret, daughter of Robert Douglas of Lochleven, (Absolution and Dispensation dated 14 October 1495, their being within the fourth and fourth degrees of consanguinity.<sup>1</sup> She was widow of Sir David Stewart of Rosyth), and was killed at the battle of Flodden in September of 1513, having had issue :

1. Lawrence Mercer, 8<sup>th</sup> of Meikelour, (*see below*).
2. Henry Mercer, was a substitute heir to the lands of Meikleour in 1527 and to whom his brother, Lawrence, conveyed the lands of Lednoch. He had a charter from Andrew Bannerman for those of Easter and Wester Cardney on 9 July 1541.
3. Robert Mercer, was a substitute heir to the lands of Meikleour in 1527 and was appointed Canon of Aberdeen. He disposed his lands of Banchory-Devenick to Henry Mercer, son of Lawrence Mercer of Meikleour, on 29 July 1580.<sup>2</sup>

**LAWRENCE MERCER, 7<sup>TH</sup> OF MEIKELOUR**, succeeded on his father's death in September of 1513 and had Sasine for the lands of Meikleour, Pitkeithly and others, on 30 May 1514,<sup>3</sup> which were subsequently confirmed to him under the Great Seal on 13 July 1527.<sup>4</sup>

He *m.* Janet, daughter of Alexander Dundas, 3<sup>rd</sup> of Fingask, by 25 February 1517 when a precept for a charter to them for the lands of Dalkeith passed the Privy Seal,<sup>5</sup> and *d.* in 1534. He was father of :

1. Lawrence Mercer, 8<sup>th</sup> of Meikelour, (*see below*).
2. Egedia *or* Giles Mercer, *m.* firstly, by 22 February 1559, to William Scrimgeour of Myres when she was infert by him in a liferent of his lands of Nether Myres ; secondly, to Alexander Blair of Balthayock, (he was widow of

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<sup>1</sup> GD150/245.

<sup>2</sup> RMS 1580-1593. No. 2.

<sup>3</sup> Ex. Rolls. Vol. XIV. P. 553-554.

<sup>4</sup> C2/21/22.

<sup>5</sup> RPS Vol. I. No. 2967.

Jean Ogilvy by whom he had issue), and thirdly, to Archibald Dundas, 5<sup>th</sup> of Fingask, and had issue by all husbands.

**LAWRENCE MERCER, 8<sup>TH</sup> OF MEIKELOUR**, succeeded his father and had Sasine for the lands of Meikleour, Tulliebaglies, and others, on 6 October 1537.<sup>1</sup> He *d.* in 1581, having *m.* firstly, to Katherine, daughter of Sir William Scott of Balweary, with whom, on his resignation, he had a conjunct charter under the Great Seal for the lands of Meikleour on 25 April 1545,<sup>2</sup> and by whom he was father of :

1. Andrew Mercer, 9<sup>th</sup> of Meikleour, (*see below*).
2. Henry Mercer, had a charter for the lands of Banchory-Devenick from Robert Mercer, Canon of Aberdeen, on 29 July 1580<sup>3</sup> and raised an action with his brother, Andrew Mercer of Meikelour, against their stepmother, Jean Ruthven, in 1585. He was Tutor to his nephew Lawrence Mercer of Meikelour during his minority.
3. Gabriel Mercer of Skirlings and Saline, acquired those lands and was adjudged to be one of the nearest agnates on the father's side to his nephew, William Bonar of Rossie, on 15 April 1572. He *m.* Frances, daughter of Patrick Colquhoun, (she was widow of Robert Colville of Cleish), *d.* by 6 February 1591 and was father of,
  - 3a) Laurence Mercer of Kirkton of Saline, succeeded his father and *m.* Besseta Hepburn.
  - 3a) James Mercer, is styled son of the late Gabriel Mercer of Saline when he granted a renunciation for 40 merks to James Lindsay of Dowhill on 20 November 1594.<sup>4</sup>
  - 3a) Isabel Mercer, *m.* Gabriel Mercer, Burgess of Perth, (*c/m* 1 February 1592).

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<sup>1</sup> Ex. Rolls. Vol. XVII. P. 744. They are then stated to have been lapsed for three years.

<sup>2</sup> RMS 1514-1546. No. 3093.

<sup>3</sup> RMS 1580-1593. No. 2.

<sup>4</sup> GD254/57.

4. Margaret Mercer, *m.* John Bonar, eldest son and heir of William Bonar of Rossie, (*c/m* 3 December 1556<sup>1</sup>), and had issue.
5. Isobella Mercer, *m.* by 27 July 1548, to Alexander Blair of Balgray, when he was admitted to Burgess of Perth by right of his wife who is then styled a daughter of Laurence Mercer of Meikelour.<sup>2</sup> They had issue.
6. Elizabeth Mercer, *m.* George Ramsay of Bamff, (*c/m* 21 November 1572), and had issue.
7. Jean Mercer, *m.* Henry White, son and heir of John White of Lumbany.<sup>3</sup>
8. Marjory Mercer, *m.* by 3 January 1593, to her step-brother Patrick Crichton of Strathurd, when he was admitted to Burgess of Perth by right of his wife who is then styled a daughter of the late Laurence Mercer of Meikelour,<sup>4</sup> and had issue.
9. Christian Mercer, *m.* William Moray, eldest son and heir of Robert Moray of Abercairney, (*c/m* 4 July 1583.<sup>5</sup> He *d.* in 1640), and had issue.

He *m.* secondly, after 1570/71, to Jean, daughter of William, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord Ruthven, (she was widow of John Crichton of Strathurd, whom she had *m.* in around 1544, and *d.* on 9 December 1593, having had issue by both husbands), by whom he was father of :

10. **JOHN MERCER, 1<sup>ST</sup> OF MELGINCH**, is styled son of Jean Ruthven in a complaint by his half-brothers Andrew Mercer of Meikleour and Henry Mercer against their step-mother for possession of the lands of Balleif in 1585 and obtained the lands of Kethick from Leonard, Abbot of Cupar on 27 April 1599. He had a charter for the lands of Balcomie from James Rob of

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<sup>1</sup> RMS 1546-1580. No. 1130. She is then styled the eldest daughter and her father was cautioner to her.

<sup>2</sup> SRS Perth Guildry Book.

<sup>3</sup> RD1/6/278.

<sup>4</sup> SRS Perth Guildry Book .

<sup>5</sup> RD1/23/309. Her brother, Andrew Mercer of Meikelour, being cautioner.

Balcomie on 13 July 1590<sup>1</sup> and also obtained those of Melginch from which he took his designation. He *m.* Marjory, daughter of William Bruce of Fingask, *d.* by August of 1618 and had issue which succeeded to the lands of Aldie and Meikleour as heirs male and carried on the succession, (*see below*).

11. Laurence Mercer, was a substitute heir to his brother John in the lands of Keithick on 27 April 1599.<sup>2</sup>
12. Robert Mercer, was a substitute heir to the lands of Kethick on 27 April 1599 and obtained those of Saline, near Dunfermline. He *m.* at Edinburgh, on 9 July 1595, to Rebecca Carmichael<sup>3</sup> and had issue, (*see Mercer of Saline and Scotsbank*).
13. Elizabeth Mercer, *m.* Alexander Fleming of Moness, (he was widow of Egedia, daughter of Alexander Blair, 9<sup>th</sup> of Balthayock), and had issue.
14. Grisel Mercer, *m.* firstly, Sir Thomas Stewart, 10<sup>th</sup> of Grantully, (he *d.* about 1610), and had no issue, and secondly, by 1619, to James Ogilvy of Clova.<sup>4</sup>
15. Giles Mercer, *m.* by 14 September 1594, to John Nairne of Mukarsie, when he was admitted to Burgess of Perth in right of his wife Giles, daughter of Laurence Mercer of Meikelour.<sup>5</sup> They had issue.
16. Anna Mercer, *m.* Sir James Learmonth of Balcomie, (*c/m* 9 September 1587. He *d.* on 22 March 1598), and had issue.

**ANDREW MERCER, 9<sup>TH</sup> OF MEIKLEOUR**, succeeded his father and raised an action against his stepmother, Jean Ruthven, for wrongful possession of certain lands in 1585. This remained unresolved on 20 April 1587 when he was compelled to subscribed to a Bond of Caution that he would not harm either she or John Mercer, her son.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> RMS 1580-1593. No. 1752.

<sup>2</sup> RMS 1594-1608. No. 903.

<sup>3</sup> OPR – Edinburgh.

<sup>4</sup> Reg. Privy Council – 1619.

<sup>5</sup> SRS Perth Guildry records.

<sup>6</sup> Reg. Privy Council – 1587.

He *m.* his stepsister, Elizabeth, daughter of John Crichton of Strathurd, (she survived him and *m.* secondly, to Sir John Ogilvy of Craig), to whom, in her virginity, his father granted the lands of Tullyballgies and half of Lednoch on 16 January 1576.<sup>1</sup> He *d.* in 1587/88 and before 21 November of that latter year, and was father of,

1. Sir Lawrence Mercer, of Meikleour, (*see below*).
2. James Mercer, *m.* by 8 September 1617, to Elizabeth Alexander when they were infeft in the lands of Lundeiff by William Haliburton of Mawis, and is then styled brother to Lawrence Mercer of Meikleour.<sup>2</sup>

**SIR LAWRENCE MERCER, 10<sup>TH</sup> OF MEIKLEOUR**, succeeded his father and had Sasine for the lands of Balleif and the lands and barony of Meikleour on 29 May 1595, which had lapsed and been in the King's hands for the space of seven years or thereby.<sup>3</sup> He sold most of his lands in lower Strathearn to Laurence Craigie including Kilgraston on 17 May 1621, followed by those quarter-part lands of Pitkeathly on 8 May 1624.

He *d.* in December of 1645, and was buried in Kirk of Perth on 19 December 1645,<sup>4</sup> having *m.* firstly, in about 1607, to Cecilia, daughter of James, 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Colville of Culross, by whom he was father of :

1. John Mercer, was the eldest son and who, for reasons now unknown, was passed over in succession in favour of his brother James in 1642.
2. Sir James Mercer, 11<sup>th</sup> of Meikleour and Aldie, (*see below*).
3. Margaret Mercer, *m.* John Cunningham, fiar of Barns, eldest son and heir apparent of Alexander Cunningham of Barns, by 18 July 1627 when they had a

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<sup>1</sup> RPS Vol. VII. No. 402.

<sup>2</sup> RS49/1/f.251.

<sup>3</sup> Ex. Rolls. Vol. XXIII. P. 364-365.

<sup>4</sup> Chronicle of Perth.

confirmation under the Great Seal for the lands of Wester Barns and in which she is styled eldest daughter to Laurence Mercer of Meikleour.<sup>1</sup>

4. Cecil Mercer, *m.* James Stewart, 5<sup>th</sup> of Fincastle, (he *d.* in around 1666), and had issue.

He *m.* secondly, at Fossoway, on 26 January 1622, Christian, daughter of Alexander Bruce, 5<sup>th</sup> of Cultmalundy, by whom he was father of :

5. Laurence Mercer, in favour of whom his father conveyed the lands and barony of Aldie which was confirmed under the Great Seal on 16 July 1631.<sup>2</sup>

6. Alexander Mercer of Kinnaird, was a substitute heir to his brothers in the lands of Aldie and Kinnaird on 16 July 1631. He *m.* at Dunfermline, on 9 May 1656, to Elizabeth, sister of Sir John Henderson of Fordell,<sup>3</sup> (she survived him and *m.* secondly, by 12 November 1661, to Dr. Robert Cunningham, and also surviving that husband, she *m.* thirdly, to Sir George Cunningham of Auchinhove), and *dsp* by 7 April 1658 when his brother James was served heir to him in the lands of Kinnaird.<sup>4</sup>

7. Robert Mercer, was also a substitute heir to his brothers in the lands of Aldie and Kinnaird on 16 July 1631. He *dsp* in 1650.<sup>5</sup>

8. Jean Mercer, *m.* Colin Campbell, 3<sup>rd</sup> of Persie, (*c/m* at Coupar Angus on 26 January 1639), and had issue.

9. Nicholas Mercer, *m.* James Primrose, Clerk of Council, and had issue.

**SIR JAMES MERCER, 11<sup>TH</sup> OF MEIKLEOUR AND ALDIE**, was the preferred heir of his father and on his father and elder brother, John's resignation, he had a charter

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<sup>1</sup> RMS 1620-1633. No. 1109.

<sup>2</sup> RMS 1620-1633. No. 1817.

<sup>3</sup> OPR – Dunfermline.

<sup>4</sup> C22/25/52.

<sup>5</sup> St. Andrews Tests.

for the barony of Meikleour on 7 May 1642 in which he is styled the second son.<sup>1</sup>

He *m.* Jean, daughter of Sir Thomas Stewart, 12<sup>th</sup> of Grantully, (*c/m* 1 February 1648<sup>2</sup>), with whom he had a conjunct charter under the Great Seal for the lands and barony of Meikleour on 10 June 1661, with remainder to themselves and the heirs male between them, which failing, to his heirs male by any other marriage, which failing, to his nearest heir male,<sup>3</sup> and was created a Baronet. He *d.* at London, on 19 February 1671<sup>4</sup> and was father of :

1. Charles Mercer, *b.* in June of 1667 and *d.* young.
2. Jean Mercer, was served heir of tailzie and provision to her father on 15 June 1672,<sup>5</sup> and *dsp* by September 1681.
3. **GRISEL MERCER, LADY ALDIE**, to whom the King granted the lands of Carnbo and others on 6 September 1681, with the remainder of her father's estate to be conveyed to the heir-male, Laurence Merce of Melginch.<sup>6</sup> She *d.* unmarried, at Edinburgh, in September of 1706, and was succeeded by her sister, Helen.
4. Helen Mercer, was served heir to her elder sister, Grisel, in the lands of Aldie, Dumbarrie, and Carnbo on 19 June 1707.<sup>7</sup> She *m.* Sir Lawrence Mercer of Melginch, (he was widow of Jean, daughter of Sir Andrew Murray 1<sup>st</sup> of Murrayshall, by whom he had issue; and *m.* thirdly to Christian, daughter of Charles Kinloch of Gourdie, and had issue ; and fourthly to Jean, daughter of Charles Stewart, of Ballechin), and *d.* in January of 1720. She was buried at Holyrood on 30<sup>th</sup> of that month,<sup>8</sup> and had issue. (*see below*).

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<sup>1</sup> RMS 1634-1651. No. 1174.

<sup>2</sup> GD121/1/box1/83.

<sup>3</sup> RMS 1661-1668. No. 56.

<sup>4</sup> GD157/368.

<sup>5</sup> C22/31/47.

<sup>6</sup> Acta Parl. Scot. 1681/7/139.

<sup>7</sup> Services of Heirs.

<sup>8</sup> Holyrood Burial register.

5. Mary Mercer, *m.* John Stewart, 3<sup>rd</sup> of Innernytie, (he *d.* in 1731), and *d.* at Jeanfield, near Dalkeith, on 5 May 1741.<sup>1</sup> She was buried at Holyrood, Edinburgh, on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> following,<sup>2</sup> and had issue.

Succession then passed to the heir male:

**JOHN MERCER 1<sup>ST</sup> OF MELGINCH**, was son of Laurence Mercer of Meikleour by his second wife, Jean Ruthven, and is styled a son to her in a complaint by his half-brothers, Andrew Mercer of Meikleour and Henry Mercer, against their step-mother for possession of the lands of Balleif in 1585. He acquired the lands of Kethick from Leonard, Abbot of Cupar, by charter dated 27 April 1599 and also those of Balcomie from James Rob of Balcomie by charter dated 13 July 1590.<sup>3</sup> He afterwards acquired the lands of Melginch from Blair of Melginch from which he took his designation.

He *m.* Marjory, daughter of William Bruce of Fingask, *d.* by August of 1618 and was father of :

1. Laurence Mercer, 2<sup>nd</sup> of Melginch, (*see below*).
2. Mr. James Mercer, who, with his mother, Marjory Bruce, disposed their lands of Jackston to Mr John Nairne, Servant to Sir George Hay, Lord Chancellor, on 6 December 1627<sup>4</sup> and was appointed Minister of Cluny. He *m.* Euphemia, daughter and coheirress of Sir John Wemyss of Craigton, *d.* in August of 1655 and was father of :

2a} James Mercer, portioner of Freuchie, who, with his sister Marie, were placed under the care of their cousin John Mercer of Melginch, as nearest agnate on their father's side on 15 August 1656,<sup>5</sup> and he was appointed Tutor-at-law to Lawrence Mercer, son and heir of the deceased John

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<sup>1</sup> Caledonian Mercury, 14<sup>th</sup> May 1741, edition.

<sup>2</sup> Holyrood Burial register.

<sup>3</sup> RMS 1580-1593. No. 1752.

<sup>4</sup> Blair Castle Archives Box 24. Parcel IV. No. 17

<sup>5</sup> C22/34/40.



Mercer of Melginch, on 18 August 1671.<sup>1</sup> He *m.* on 27 November 1667, to Anna, daughter of James Schioch, Merchant Burgess of Perth,<sup>2</sup> (*c/m* 23 November 1667).

2a} Marie Mercer, *m.* firstly, at Perth, on 9 July 1668, to Peter Bruce of Spoutwalls,<sup>3</sup> (*c/m* 13 May 1668.<sup>4</sup> He *d.* in July of 1673), and had issue ; and secondly, by 19 May 1681, to James Blair of Spoutwalls.

2a} Jean Mercer, *bap.* at St. Andrews, on 10 September 1642 and *d.* young.

2a} Margaret Mercer, *bap.* at St. Andrews, on 8 August 1644 and *d.* young.

3. Margaret Mercer, *m.* Colin Campbell, eldest son and heir of Colin Campbell of Souterhouses, (*c/m* 6 August 1618<sup>5</sup>).

**LAURENCE MERCER, 2<sup>ND</sup> OF MELGINCH**, succeeded his father and *m.* firstly, at Dunfermline, on 6 August 1615, to Sarah, daughter of Robert Bruce, 1<sup>st</sup> of Baldrige.<sup>6</sup> He *m.* secondly, to Katherine, daughter of Patrick Butter of Gormock, Gormock, (she survived him and *m.* secondly by *c/m* 7 July 1637, to Hugh Mitchell of Kincarrochie<sup>7</sup>), and *d.* by May of 1636 having had issue :

1. John Mercer, 3<sup>rd</sup> of Melginch, (*see below*).
2. Isabel Mercer, had a provision from her father which was confirmed to her by her brother, John Mercer of Melginch, on 13 May 1671.
3. Katherine Mercer, *m.* on 30 April 1658, to Archibald Arnot, in Newburgh.<sup>8</sup>

**JOHN MERCER, 3<sup>RD</sup> OF MELGINCH**, succeeded his father and was served heir to him in the lands of West Banchrie and Little Lour on 4 May 1636.<sup>9</sup> He *m.* at

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<sup>1</sup> C22/30/243.

<sup>2</sup> OPR – Perth.

<sup>3</sup> OPR – Perth.

<sup>4</sup> RS52/4/f.80r.

<sup>5</sup> RS49/2/f.26.

<sup>6</sup> OPR - Dunfermline

<sup>7</sup> RS50/8/f.344r.

<sup>8</sup> OPR – Perth.

<sup>9</sup> C22/15/298.

Monimail, on 19 August 1659, to Elizabeth, daughter of David Sibbald of Rankeilour,<sup>1</sup> (she survived him and *m.* secondly, to David Arnot of Capeldre), and *d.* prior 18 August 1671, when his eldest son, Laurence, had tutors appointed. He was father of;

**SIR LAURENCE MERCER, 4<sup>TH</sup> OF MELGINCH AND ALDIE**, was under age at his father's death and had his cousin, James Mercer, portioner of Freuchie, a judged nearest agante to him and appointed his Tutor on 18 August 1671.<sup>2</sup> He was served heir general to his father, firstly, on 19 June 1672<sup>3</sup> and afterwards as heir to him in the lands of Little Lour on 29 July 1698,<sup>4</sup> and on the death of Sir James Mercer of Aldie, he succeeded to the lands of Meikelour and Aldie as heir male, and to whom he was served heir on 22 July 1714.<sup>5</sup>

He *m.* firstly, Jean, second daughter of Sir Andrew Murray, 1<sup>st</sup> of Murrayshall, (*c/m* 19 August 1685<sup>6</sup>), secondly, to his cousin, Helen, daughter and heiress of Sir James Mercer of Meikelour, (she *d.* in January of 1720), by whom he had issue; and thirdly in 1721, to Jean, daughter of Charles Stewart of Ballechin. He *m.* fourthly, at Perth, on 30 April 1722, to Christian, daughter of Charles Kinloch of Gourdie,<sup>7</sup> and *d.* in 1742 and before 26 November of that year,<sup>8</sup> having was father of :

1. Andrew Mercer, *bap.* at Saint Martins, on 11 March 1688 and *dsp* when young.
2. **JAMES MERCER OF ALDIE**, *bap.* at Caputh, on 26 December 1704 and succeeded to the lands of Aldie and Meikelour, being served heir to his mother

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<sup>1</sup> OPR – Monimaill.

<sup>2</sup> C22/30/243.

<sup>3</sup> C22/31/243.

<sup>4</sup> C22/47/498.

<sup>5</sup> Services of Heirs.

<sup>6</sup> GD90/2/122.

<sup>7</sup> OPR – Perth.

<sup>8</sup> Dunkeld Tests. His son Charles Mercer acted as his executor.

on 5 April 1720.<sup>1</sup> He *dsp* in July of 1720,<sup>2</sup> his sister, Jean, being served heir to him.

3. **JEAN MERCER OF ALDIE**, *bap.* at Saint Martins, on 7 October 1694 and was served heir to her brother, James Mercer of Aldie, in the lands of Aldie, Meikelour and others on 26 December 1720.<sup>3</sup> She *m.* on 16 August 1720, to Robert Murray, second son of William, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord Nairne, (he was *k.* at the battle of Culloden on 16 April 1746), and *d.* at Edinburgh, on Friday on 1 December 1749<sup>4</sup> having had issue :

3a) **JAMES MERCER OF ALDIE**, *b.* on 8 July 1724 and was served heir to his mother on 20 March 1750.<sup>5</sup> He continued the proof commenced by his mother to halt the intended forfeiture of the family estates and *d.* without legitimate issue at Meikleour on 18 December 1758, being buried in his family vault at Perth on 26<sup>th</sup> following.<sup>6</sup> He was father of :

3b) Charles Mercer, was a natural son and was factor on the family estate for many years.

3a) **WILLIAM MERCER OF ALDIE**, succeeded his elder brother James in 1758 and was served heir to him on 10 April 1759.<sup>7</sup> He *m.* at Edinburgh, on 3 April 1762, to Margaret, daughter and heir of William Murray of Pitkeathly,<sup>8</sup> *d.* at Meikleour, on Sunday 19 January 1790<sup>9</sup> and was father of:

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<sup>1</sup> Services of Heirs.

<sup>2</sup> Chancery records. Recorded 7<sup>th</sup> February 1721.

<sup>3</sup> Services of Heirs.

<sup>4</sup> Caledonian Mercury, 5<sup>th</sup> December 1749, edition.

<sup>5</sup> Services of Heirs.

<sup>6</sup> Caledonian Mercury, 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1759, edition.

<sup>7</sup> Services of Heirs.

<sup>8</sup> OPR – Edinburgh.

<sup>9</sup> Caledonian Mercury, 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1790, edition.

3b) Margaret Mercer, *b.* at Edinburgh, on 21 September 1763 and was served heir to her granduncle, Robert Mercer of Lethendy, on 2 May 1806.<sup>1</sup> She *dsp.*

3b) Jean Mercer, *b.* in 1765 and *m.* at Meikleour, on 10 April 1787, to Sir George Keith-Elphinstone, 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Keith,<sup>2</sup> (he survived her and *m.* secondly, on 10 January 1808, to Hester, daughter and coheir of Henry Thrale of Streatham, by whom he had issue issue). She *d.* at Scarthingmoor, on 12 December 1789<sup>3</sup> and had issue :

3c) **MARGARET MERCER ELPHINSTONE**, *b.* at Mayfair, on 12 June 1788, succeeded to the titles of Baron Keith of Stonehaven Marischal in the Peerage of Ireland in 1797, and Baron Keith of Banheath in the Peerage of the United Kingdom in 1803, and on the death of her relation William, Lord Nairn, in 1837, she became Baroness Nairn. She was served heir to her maternal grandfather, Colonel William Mercer, on 15 October 1822<sup>4</sup> and *m.* at Edinburgh, on 20 June 1817, to Augustus Charles Joseph, Count of Flahault Delabillardrie and aide-de-camp to Napoleon Bonapart at the battle of Waterloo,<sup>5</sup> (he *d.* at Paris, on 2 September 1870). She *d.* at Paris, on Tuesday 11 November 1867<sup>6</sup> having had issue,

3d) **EMILY JANE MERCER, BARONESS NAIRN**, *bap.* at Caputh, on 16 May 1819 and *m.* on 1 November 1843, to Henry Petty, 4<sup>th</sup> Marquess of Lansdowne. She successfully claimed the Nairn Peerage on the grounds that should the

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<sup>1</sup> Services of Heirs.

<sup>2</sup> Scots Magazine, 1<sup>st</sup> April 1787, edition.

<sup>3</sup> Scots Magazine, 1<sup>st</sup> December 1789, edition.

<sup>4</sup> Services of Heirs.

<sup>5</sup> Morning Post, 1<sup>st</sup> July 1817, edition.

<sup>6</sup> Perthshire Advertiser, 21<sup>st</sup> November 1867 edition.

male issue fail it would fall to the most senior heir-female. She *d.* at Meikelour, on 25 June 1895<sup>1</sup> and had issue:

3e} **HENRY CHARLES KEITH PETTY, LORD NAIRN**, *b.* on 24 January 1845 and succeeded his mother in the Nairn Peerage. He succeeded his father as Marquess of Lansdowne, and several other titles and *m.* on 8 November 1869, to Maude, daughter of James Hamilton, 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Abercorn. He had issue.

3e} Edmond George Petty, *b.* on 19 June 1846 and was created Lord Fitzmaurice of Leigh, on 9 January 1906. He *m.* on 23 November 1889, to Caroline, daughter of William Fitzgerald, Lichfield, (marriage annulled in 1894).

3e} Emily Louisa Anne Petty, *b.* in 1855 and *m.* on 2 June 1886, to Colonel Everard Digby. They had issue.

3d} Clementina Hortense Mercer, *bap.* at Caputh, on 29 April 1821.

3d} Georgina Gabrielle Mercer, *bap.* at Caputh, on 19 October 1822.

3d} Adele Elizabeth Josephine Mercer, *b.* in 1824.

3d} Sarah Sophia Louisa Mercer, *bap.* at Caputh, on 25 August 1825.

3b} Catherine Mercer, was served an heir portioner to her granduncle, Robert Mercer of Lethendy, on 3 March 1798<sup>2</sup> and also to her sister, Cochrane Mercer, on 3 July 1801.<sup>3</sup> She *d.* unmarried, at Edinburgh, on 16 January 1822.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Statutory record.

<sup>2</sup> Services of Heirs.

<sup>3</sup> Services of Heirs.

<sup>4</sup> Scots Magazine, 1<sup>st</sup> February 1822, edition.

- 3b) Cochrane Mercer, was served an heir-portioner to her granduncle, Robert Mercer of Lethendy, on 3 March 1798, and *d.* unmarried, at Meikleour House, on 29 November 1800.<sup>1</sup>
- 3a) Margaret Mercer, *m.* at Gorgie, near Edinburgh, on 4 April 1758, to James Robertson of Lude,<sup>2</sup> (*c/m* 4 & 7 April 1758.<sup>3</sup> He *d.* in March of 1803), and *d.* at Lude, on 31 March 1802.<sup>4</sup> They had issue.
- 3a) Jane Mercer, *d.* at Crieff, in June/July 1806.<sup>5</sup>
4. Helen Mercer, *bap.* at Saint Martins, on 13 May 1696 and *m.* in 1720, to Sir John Ogilvy, 4<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Inverquarity, (he survived her and *m.* secondly, Anne, daughter and coheirress of James Carnegie of Finavon; and *d.* in February of 1748), and had issue.
5. Grisel Mercer, *m.* at Edinburgh, on 27 September 1719, to Charles Stewart of Ballechin,<sup>6</sup> (he *d.* in 1764), and *d.* at Ballechin, on 22 August 1758,<sup>7</sup> having had had issue.
6. Lawrence Mercer, *b.* on 10<sup>th</sup> and *bap.* at Perth, on 11 February 1723 and was served heir general to his father on 26 November 1742.<sup>8</sup> He was active as a Jacobite in the rising of 1745/46 and following the battle of Culloden in April of 1746, he and a party of other Jacobites sought refuge in the Braes of Angus where they were involved in in a skirmish with Colonel Lee's Regiment during which he was taken prisoner. He was initially taken to Dundee and from there he was conveyed to Edinburgh in August '46, then to Penrith for trial. Although he originally pleaded not guilty to the charge of High Treason, he withdrew this and on 13 September he amended his plea to guilty, and

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<sup>1</sup> Caledonian Mercury, 1<sup>st</sup> December 1800, edition.

<sup>2</sup> Scots Magazine, 6<sup>th</sup> March 1758, edition.

<sup>3</sup> GD132/334

<sup>4</sup> Caledonian Mercury, 5<sup>th</sup> April 1802, edition.

<sup>5</sup> Oxford Journal, 6<sup>th</sup> July 1805, edition.

<sup>6</sup> OPR – Edinburgh.

<sup>7</sup> Scots Magazine, 7<sup>th</sup> August 1758, edition.

<sup>8</sup> Services of Heirs.

requested the King's mercy.<sup>1</sup> His exact fate has remained uncertain. Some accounts state that he died while incarcerated in Carlisle Castle, however, the 18 October 1746 edition of the Newcastle Courant included him in a list of those prisoners that had been tried and sentenced to be executed at Penrith the following Tuesday, then the 13<sup>th</sup> November edition of the Stamford Mercury records that he was amongst those prisoners who had been executed at Penrith the previous Tuesday.

7. Charles Mercer of Lethendy, following his brother Lawrence's death, he became heir male and was served heir general to his father on 9 November 1749.<sup>2</sup> He *dsp* at Lethendy, on Sunday 8 March 1789.<sup>3</sup>
8. Robert Mercer of Lethendy, became a Merchant in New York and was served heir to his brother Charles, in the lands of Lethendy on 8 September 1789.<sup>4</sup> He *d.* at Pittendreich, on 22 April 1791<sup>5</sup> and was father of :
  - 8a} James Mercer, was a natural son by Susanna Scott. He was *bap.* at Moulin, on 20 January 1767.
9. Elizabeth Mercer, *bap.* at Perth, on 10 April 1729.

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<sup>1</sup> Derby Mercury, 19<sup>th</sup> September 1746, edition.

<sup>2</sup> Services of Heirs.

<sup>3</sup> Caledonian Mercury, 12<sup>th</sup> March 1789, edition.

<sup>4</sup> Services of Heirs.

<sup>5</sup> Caledonian Mercury, 25<sup>th</sup> April 1791, edition.