

Michael SCOTT of Scotland
The bosom friend of Alexander de LECELLES
(Weblink Scott Michael before 1285 Scotland)

Michael SCOTT

B Scotland

D Scotland

M Scotland

Unknown

B Scotland

D Scotland

Children:

1. SCOTT

The family history of Michael SCOTT from
Castle of Balwearie Kirkcaldy Fife around 1285

Michael SCOT was educated at a Benedictine School at Kirkcaldy and afterwards studied for a few years at Oxford University (then renowned as the second University of Europe) had come to Paris University, which was (famous as the first University in Europe) to prosecute his studies in Alchemy and astronomy &c.

(Reference RAHMS Edinburgh Scotland document originally written by John LESSELS married Margaret GILLIES)

He lodged together with Alexander de LECELLES prosecuted the same studied together and became inseparable and congenial friends and "fratues-jurats"[sic] or sworn brothers according to a custom of that chivalrous age. Sir Walter Scot [1771-1832] of Abbotsford [Roxburgh County Eastern Scotland] the learned author and poet ancient [sic] of the Scot family call them "bosom friends".

(Reference RAHMS Edinburgh Scotland document originally written by John LESSELS married Margaret GILLIES)

On completing their studies at the University they bade an affectionate adieu to each other, and left Paris. Michael preceding to Spain the favorite residence of magicians to study magic which was taught at Toledo.

(Reference RAHMS Edinburgh Scotland document originally written by John LESSELS married Margaret GILLIES)

Alexander de LECELLAS arrival at Kinghorn with the King and Queen after their marriage renewed his old friendship with Michael Scot (whose Castle of Balwearie is in the adjoining parish) and had been induced by him to remain in Scotland instead of returning to Flanders with his wife and family, offering him a house and land and the position of personal chaplain if he had so, and as it would be for the mutual pleasure of both, Alexander accepted the offer.

(Reference RAHMS Edinburgh Scotland document originally written by John LESSELS married Margaret GILLIES)

The house and land that Michael ceded to him was a short distance from Balwearie Castle and consisted of a stone house similar to the country houses of this period, one storey high, a barn, byre (cow house) pigsty, and a shed for wood and peat. This house possessed two rooms, 'a but and a beam' the largest room being about 20 feet long and 14 ft, wide, the other being smaller. The land consisted of three acres, sufficient to pasture a cow. For this he was to pay 18 Kamed Hens (counted like the Houden breed of the present day) in perpetuity.

(Reference RAHMS Edinburgh Scotland document originally written by John LESSELS married Margaret GILLIES)

For centuries this small property was known as Priestleys i.e. Priest Meadows and is alluded to in the old ballad of "Ye ladye of Balwearie" which appears to have been written about the

time of the Deformation. Others call at Priest-leys as according to tradition, Alexander de LECELLES was looked upon as a magician (like his bosom [sic] friend Michael Scot) and in consequence the Abbot of Dunfermline (in whose diocese this land was included) would not permit the priest to be buried in the Benediction Cemetery at Kirkcaldy, as he was buried in his own land, and this may be the reason for the uncertainty of the burial place of Michael Scot also. This land is still known as Prestleys.

(Reference RAHMS Edinburgh Scotland document originally written by John LESSELS married Margaret GILLIES)

The Property of Robert Ferguson Esq. surveyed map June 1757. A plan of Raith, Ballbarton, Ballwiera & Garden as presently set out & possessed by Tenants. To the left of Ballweiry Miln is the Priest leys Terbane [sic]. The map of Priestley is located on the website.

(Reference Archives of Scotland the map is located in the images link)

Between the years 1288 - 1290 Sir Michael Scot of Balwearie with his chaplain (Alexander de LECELLES) and Sir David Wamys all from Fifeshire, were sent on an Embassy to Norway, to bring over the heir to the Scottish throne "Margaret of Norway" but she sickened and died at Orkney to the great grief of the Scottish nation.

(Reference RAHMS Edinburgh Scotland document originally written by John LESSELS married Margaret GILLIES)