

William de RAMSAY & Elizabeth MACDUFF

William de RAMSAY - Earl of Fife

B Fife Scotland
D between 1340-1360 Fife Scotland
M Fife Scotland

Elizabeth MACDUFF – Countess of Fife

B before 1332 Fife Scotland
D after 12 August 1372 Fife Scotland

1. Elizabeth de RAMSAY born Fife Scotland died Fife Scotland married John de LASSELL born Fife Scotland died Fife Scotland (3 children)

William de RAMSAY later the Earl of Fife was born in Fife Scotland.

Elizabeth MACDUFF the Countess of Fife's parents were Mary de MONTHERMER and Duncan MACDUFF 8th Earl of Fife in Scotland

(Reference The Peerage website page 10224 citation Alison Weir Britain's Royal Families The Complete Genealogy [London UK The Bodley Head 1999] page 215 Hereafter cited as British Royal Families)

William DE RAMSAY Earl of Fife married Elizabeth MCDUFF Countess of Fife Scotland.

(Reference The Peerage website page 10224 citation Alison Weir Britain's Royal Families The Complete Genealogy [London UK The Bodley Head 1999] page 215 Hereinafter cited as British Royal Families)

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The LESSELS family's connection to the MacDuff Clan goes back to the 8th Earl of Fife Duncan MACDUFF and the marriage of his granddaughter to John de LASSELL the descendant of our earliest ancestor Alexander de LECELLES. Additional information about the MacDuff clan is recorded towards the end of this document.

Additional information about Elizabeth de RAMSAY nee MACDUFF

- Elizabeth DE RAMSAY formerly MACDUFF married Walter STEWART Earl of Fife (he was the son of Robert II STEWART King of Scotland and Elizabeth MURE of Rowallan).
- Elizabeth married Thomas BISSET Earl of Fife between 10 January 1363 and 08 June 1363.
- Elizabeth married John DE DUNBAR Earl of Fife.
- Elizabeth succeeded to the title of Countess of Fife in 1353. She abdicated as Countess of Fife on 30 March 1371. She gained the title of Countess of Fife before 06 March 1372.
- Elizabeth died after 12 March 1372.

(Reference The Peerage website page 10249 citation Alison Weir Britain's Royal Families The Complete Genealogy [London UK The Bodley Head 1999] page 215 Hereinafter cited as British Royal Families)

The ruling dynasty for Scotland during this period was:

1329-1371 David II (son of Robert I)

(Reference source The Wordsworth Handbook of Kings & Queens A chronological guide to the great dynasties of the world by John E Morby)

The 1340 Deed of William de RAMSAY the Earl of Fife recorded that his late daughter Elizabeth de LASSELL had married John de LASSELL and they had 3 children [1] William, [2] Margaret Mariote and [3] Agnes. The Early also recorded that his son-in-law John de LASSELL mother was Margaret de LASSELL.

Transcription of a Deed in which William de RAMSAY Earl of Fife granted certain lands of Roughlaw and Holdean to the ancestors of John LESSELS. Deed Circa date 1340.

To all who may see or hear this deed I William de RAMSAY Earl of Fife wish eternal salvation in the Lord to be known to you That I have given and bequeathed and by this my present deed have confirmed to Margaret de LASSELL and to John de LASSELL her Son jointly, and to the survivor of them, and to William son of the said John, born to himself and ELIZABETH my late daughter, and to their heirs, all my lands of Roughlaw and of Holdean in Caledonia together with their appurtenances whatsoever.

Moreover in the event of the death of the said William without issue then I give and bequeath to Margaret Mariote and Agnes, daughters of the aforesaid John and Elizabeth, sisters of the said William and to their heirs in succession all the lands viz: To each of the said girls and women and to their heirs beginning with the elder and afterwards as they chance to succeed to the inheritance without dismemberment of the same by heritage and division whatsoever. Should all of these heirs, which God forbid, then I desire and direct that all of the aforesaid land together with its appurtenances aforesaid shall revert in full detail to me and my heirs. The said Margaret and John jointly and jointly and the survivor of them and William son of the said John and their heirs also and in the case previously referred to the aforesaid girls or women and their heirs are to have and to hold all the aforesaid lands together with their appurtenances from me and my heirs in fee simple and by inheritance for ever by means of all lawful boundaries and divisions such as marshes, paths, sea, ponds, woods, meadow land, grazing and pastures land, together with bond-slaves and men born on the lands with their belongings, and of free tenants, if there be any, with court services, escheats, mills, corn rights, with miller's dues, together with the rights of fowling, fishing, and hunting, with peat and moss bogs, marble and limestone, with other workshops whatsoever, with all liberties and benefits of all kinds pertaining there to and with the tools therefore whatsoever, specified and unspecified, at or at a distance, below as well as above ground, together with free entrance and exit from every part as freely, peaceably, and with absolutely the same respect and in peace, as I myself have held, possessed, or could and ought to hold, at any time the said lands without condition or exception introduced or to be introduced in the future. The aforesaid Margaret and John jointly and the survivors of them and the aforesaid William and his heirs and the aforesaid girls or women with their heirs, as said before, are to pay to me annually and to my heirs one silver penny or one rose for the sake of and by way of recognition at the feast of the Nativity of St John the Baptist at Roughlaw or Holdean aforesaid, only if they be asked, in the place of all manner of service exaction and demand and in the place of making the Landlord viz: the lord of the County marches the due and accustomed services. And I the aforesaid William de RAMSAY and my heirs will guarantee and give quittance for all the aforesaid lands of Roughlaw and of Holdean with their appurtenances to the aforesaid Margaret and John jointly and to the survivor of them also William and to his heirs and to the aforesaid girls or women and to their heirs, as aforesaid them against all men for ever.

In witness of which I have set my seal to this my present deed, the reverend fathers in Christ John and Hugo, by the Grace of God Abbots of the Monasteries of the Holy Cross at Edinburgh and at Newbotill, the Lord Patrius of Hepburn, Walter of Haliburton, John of Edmonton, Knights, Alexander of Ramsay, Gilbert Henry Alexander of Cockburn, Alexander of Reclinton, and many others being the witnesses.

(Reference source Scottish archives in Edinburgh during my 2006 trip to Scotland)

The lands of the middle of the fifteenth century belonged to the abbey of Dunfermline and are supposed after the dissolution of monasteries to have been granted to the bailies and corporation of the town of Kirkcaldy and by them transferred to the family of the SCOTTS of Balwearie from whom they passed into the possession of the **RAMSAYS** of this place and were purchased by the ancestor of the present proprietor (FERGUSSON).

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Wellington publication on shelf Topographical Dictionary of Scotland by Samuel Lewis first published in 1846 volume 1 -1 B there is also a volume 2)

Comment – The early Scottish records are held in Scotland and are not accessible from New Zealand. The ability to translate early Scottish script is also not possible. I have been unable to locate any additional information about the families in this document.

Comment - There is additional information and publications located on the Internet about William de RAMSAY Earl of Fife which I will transcribe into this document at a later date.

MCDUFF CLAN

Some family members told me that the LESSELS ancestors belonged to the MacDuff Clan. When visiting Scotland I was informed that the LESSELS ancestors were lowlanders not highlanders.

Some family members told me that the LESSELS ancestors had a tartan. When visiting Scotland I was information that there was no LESSELS tartan.

Early in the 14th century John de LASSELL married Elizabeth de RAMSAY in Fife Scotland. Elizabeth's parents were William de RAMSAY the Earl of Fife and Elizabeth MACDUFF the Countess of Fife.

Elizabeth MACDUFF the Countess of Fife's parents were Mary de MONTHERMER and Duncan MACDUFF the 8th Earl of Fife in Scotland

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Prestley Estate - Balwearie Castle - Raith Estate - Fife Scotland

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The greater portion of the lands formerly in Kirkcaldy was in the year 1650 separated from that parish and together with the lands of Easter and Wester Touch formerly in the Parish of Kinghorn and those of Wester Bogie in the parish of Dysart erected in to a separate and distinct parish under the appellation of Abbotshall

(Reference National Library of New Zealand Wellington publication on shelf Topographical Dictionary of Scotland by Samuel Lewis first published in 1846 volume 1 -1 B there is also a volume 2)

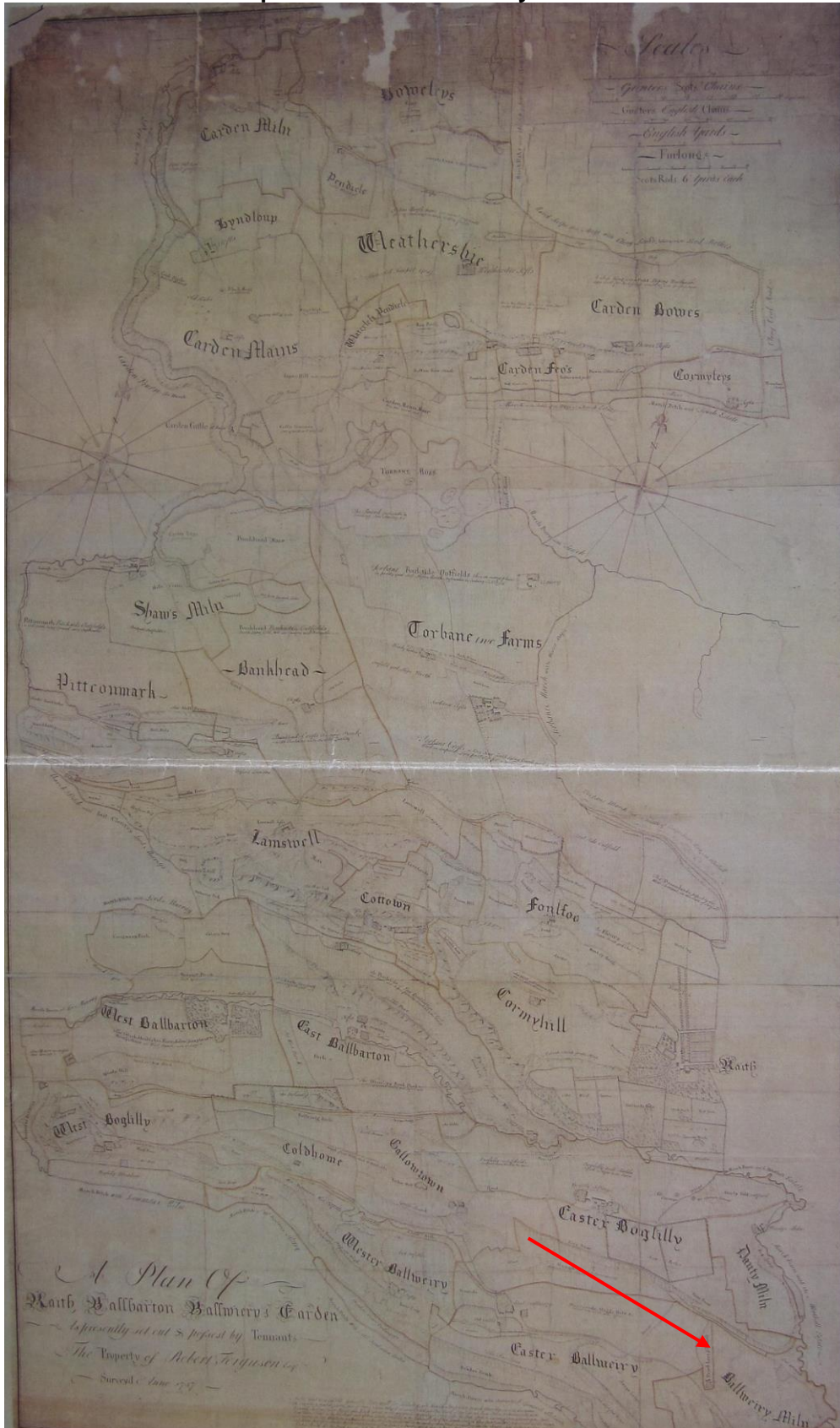
Comment – By researching the Balwearie land occupiers such as the Scott's – Ramsay's – and Fergusson's families we will learn more about our Lessels ancestors. When time permits I will attempt this additional line of research.

The 1757 surveyed map below records to the left of Ballweiry Miln the **Priest-leys** Terbane [sic] and also Raith, Ballbarton, Ballwiera [sic Balwearie] and Garden as presently set out and possessed by Tenants.

(Reference National Archives of Scotland the map is located in the images link and I have a copy of the survey map)

Comment – There are additional enlarged images of the 1757 survey map in the documents [1] LS 1285 Alexander de Lecelles [2] LS 1285 Michael Scott [3] LS 1340 John de Lassell & Elizabeth de Ramsay in the Lessels section on the same website recorded at the top left hand corner of this page.

1757 Map Raith Estate Kirkcaldy Fife Scotland



Red arrow points to the Lessels property the Priestley Estate in Fife Scotland.