

Livingston: Bruce of Airth

Generation One

Thomas Bruce

Thomas, a near relative of the Bruce kings, organised, along with Robert Stuart, afterwards King Robert II, (See *Scotland*, Generation Thirty-one) an important rising in Kyle against the English rule in 1334, in reward for which he was put in possession of part of the Crown demesnes of Clackmannan. Thomas married Marjorie Charteris of Stenhouse and they had a son:

- **Sir Robert Bruce**, mentioned next.

The above details for Thomas Bruce are from *Burke's Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Peerage and Baronetage*, Peter Townend, ed., London, 1970. Miss Van Rensselaer shows Generation One as "Sir Robert Bruce, a natural son of King Robert the Bruce" and his wife "Helen Vipont, daughter of Captain Allan Vipont of Lochleven." Although King Robert the Bruce did have a natural son Sir Robert Bruce (See *Scotland*, Generation Twenty-nine), he was not the father of Sir Robert Bruce, First Baron of Clackmannan shown next.

Generation Two

Sir Robert Bruce, First Baron of Clackmannan

Died on July 23, 1403 at the Battle of Shrewsbury.

Sir Robert married Isabel Stewart, daughter of Sir Robert Stewart of Rosyth Castle. The Castle and manor of Clackmannan were granted by King David II, in a charter dated December 9, 1359 and included several other lands in the Sheriffdom of Clackmannan, later grants increased his vast holdings, and in January 1367/68 he obtained lands in Rait, within the Sheriffdom of Perth. Robert and Isabel's second son was:

- **Sir Edward Bruce**, mentioned next.

Generation Three

Sir Edward Bruce

Died before 1403, before his father and father-in-law.

Sir Edward married Agnes de Erth, eldest daughter and co-heiress of William de Erth and so his family came into possession of Erth or Airth. Edward and Agnes had two sons, one of whom was:

- **Sir Robert Bruce of Airth**, mentioned next.

Generation Four

Sir Robert Bruce of Airth

Died (executed for political activities) in January 1449/50

Sir Robert married Agnes Livingston, a daughter of Sir Alexander Livingston, probably Sir Alexander Livingston of Feldes or Phildes, of Perthshire, Constable of Stirling Castle, Captain of Methven Castle, etc., who was executed by hanging and/or beheading on Castle Hill in Edinburgh on January 21, 1449/50 for high treason. (See *Livingston*, Generation Five.) Robert and Agnes had a son:

- **Sir Alexander Bruce of Airth**, mentioned next.

Generation Five

Sir Alexander Bruce of Airth

Sir Alexander Bruce succeeded to his father's lands and title in 1451, just two years after King James II held the Parliament by whose order his father and father-in-law lost their lives. Sir Alexander married (secondly) to Margaret Forrester, daughter of Sir Malcolm Forrester, and they had a son:

- **Sir John Bruce of Airth**, mentioned next.

Generation Six

Sir John Bruce of Airth

Sir John was killed for political differences by his wife's brothers. Sir John married in 1471 to Elizabeth Menteith, daughter of Sir William Menteith of Kerse, and they had a daughter:

- **Janet Bruce of Airth** who married on October 16, 1504 to William Livingston of Kilsyth, eldest son and heir of William Livingston of Kilsyth who was slain at Flodden Field. (See *Livingston: Livingston of Kilsyth*, Generation Four)

Sources

Florence Van Rensselaer: *The Livingston Family in America and Its Scottish Origins*, New York, 1949 pages 58 – 59 and 46.

Burke's Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Peerage and Baronetage, Peter Townend, ed., London, 1970.

Livingston: Fleming of Edinburgh

Sir Hector Livingston Duff wrote: "John Livingston married, on the 23rd June, 1635, Janet, daughter of Bartholomew Fleming. She was a kinswoman of the Earl of Wigton who, with his eldest son, Lord Fleming, attended the wedding."

However, Sir Hector does not indicate how Janet was related to the Earl of Wigton. Wigton, Cumbria is located in the north west of England, about 10 miles south west of Carlisle. Note that a similar place is Wigtown, Dumfries; located in the south west of Scotland, about 50 miles west of Wigton, Cumbria across the Solway Firth.

For another connection to Fleming, see Livingston: Fleming, Earl of Wigtown. We have been unable to establish a connection between these two Fleming families.

Florence Van Rensselaer summarised the ancestors of Janet Fleming as follows:

- I. **Patrick Fleming**, Burgess, December 8, 1500.
- II. **Patrick Fleming**, Burgess, September 12, 1531.
- III. **George Fleming** died before February 25, 1556/7.

- IV. **Thomas Fleming** died April 18, 1619; married Isabel of Wigtoun who married Walter Young for her second husband. Guild brother of Rutherglen and Burgess of Edinburgh May 6, 1580.
- V. **Bartholomew Fleming**, second son, married Marion Hamilton.
- VI. **Janet Fleming**, elder daughter, born 1613, married June 23, 1635, Rev. John Livingston. (See *Livingston*, Generation Thirteen)

Sources

Sir Hector Livingston Duff, *The Sewells of the New World*, William Pollard and Co., 1924, page 116

Florence Van Rensselaer: *The Livingston Family in America and Its Scottish Origins*, New York, 1949, page 44. Miss Van Rensselaer gave as her reference:

“From volume in office of Mr. Butler, Windsor Herald, College of Arms, London. Roll of Edinburgh Burgesses giving line of descent according to Herald in charge. (Not Mr. Butler, who was out at that hour.)”

Livingston: Fleming of Wigtown

For another connection to Fleming, see Livingston: Fleming of Edinburgh above. We have been unable to establish a connection between these two Fleming families.

Florence Van Rensselaer summarised the ancestors of Janet Fleming as follows:

- I. **Robert Fleming of Cumberland** died before 1314.
The town of Wigtown in Cumberland is found as “Wygton” in the 11th century and the same in the 12th century; connected with a barony and has a Norse origin.
- II. **Sir Patrick Fleming**, second son, married (?) Fraser, daughter of Sir Simon Fraser of Olivercastle in Peebleshire; executed by Edward I.
- III. **Sir Malcolm Fleming**, living 1374; married Christian.
In 1345, the earldom of Wigtown was granted to Malcolm Fleming.
- IV. **Sir David Fleming** married Isabel, heiress of Monyabroch in Aberdeenshire. “She may have been the daughter of that Donald Strathachin and Annabel, his wife, who received a charter from King David II of the barony of Monyabroch and others April 16, 1343”.
Sir David distinguished himself in the battle of Otterburn, 1388.
- V. **Sir Malcolm Fleming** beheaded November 24, 1440 in the castle of Edinburgh; married before June 28, 1413, Elizabeth Stewart, daughter of Robert Stewart, Duke of Albany, Governor of Scotland and niece of King Robert III. (See *Scotland*, Generation Thirty-two.)

- VI. Sir Robert Fleming** created a Peer of Parliament, 1451, of Biggar and Cumbernauld. Master of the King's Household, 1454; died 1491; married first, **Janet Douglas**, living 1451, third daughter of James, seventh Earl of Douglas. (See *Sinclair*, Generation Eight)
- VII. Elizabeth Fleming** married 1472, **James Livingston**, third Lord Livingston of Callendar "who on November 1, 1472 declared that he would marry her". She died in 1505. In some records, Elizabeth is given as Beatrice, but the Fleming records give Elizabeth. (See *Livingston*, Generation Eight)

Source

Florence Van Rensselaer: *The Livingston Family in America and Its Scottish Origins*, New York, 1949, pages 10 and 11.

Livingston: Livingston of Falkirk

Generation One

Alexander Livingston of Phildes

Died (executed for high treason) on January 21, 1449/50

Alexander was a son of Sir Alexander Livingston of Callendar and his wife who was a daughter of James Dundas of Dundas "the Elder". (See *Livingston*, Generation Five)

Alexander Livingston of Feldes or Phildes, of Perthshire, Constable of Stirling Castle, Captain of Methven Castle, etc., executed by hanging and/or beheading on Castle Hill in Edinburgh on January 21, 1449/50 for high treason. (For further details of his line, see E.B. Livingston: *The Livingstons of Callendar*, Edinburgh, 1920, Chapters XIV., XV., and XVI.)

Generation Two

Miss Van Rensselaer wrote:

"There is no account of the wife and family of Alexander Livingston of Phildes (above) but crown charters prove that he left an heir, and that his grandson was as given below."

(Florence Van Rensselaer: *The Livingston Family in America and Its Scottish Origins*, New York, 1949 page 67)

Generation Three

Alexander Livingston of Dunipace

Alexander, a grandson of Alexander Livingston of Phildes, was the first member of the Livingston family to possess the lands of Dunipace in Stirlingshire. He was a member of the town council of Stirling from 1521 to 1530 and a burgess in 1525. Alexander married his second wife Alison Gourlay in 1490, and they had a son:

- **Master Alexander Livingston**, mentioned next.

Generation Four

Master Alexander Livingston, First Lord of Dunipace

Died after August 27, 1560 at which time he was witness to a Crown Charter.

Master Alexander Livingston is described by Miss Van Rensselaer as “a man of marked ability.” He was the first member of his family to obtain from the crown the restoration of the forfeited ancestral estates of Feldes or Phildes. This was granted on January 13, 1516/17.

Alexander was a Commissioner of Justiciary, Director of Chancery and Keeper of the Quarter Seal. In 1550, he was promoted to be a Lord of Session at which time he took the title of Lord of Dunipace.

Alexander married before July 1525 to Elizabeth Hepburn, a daughter of Sir Adam Hepburn who had fallen at Battle of Flodden (September 9, 1513). Alexander and Elizabeth had the following children:

- James Livingston (d.s.p.)
- John Livingston who succeeded to Dunipace and married Margaret Elphistone
- Janet Livingston who married first to John Leighton of Ullshaven and second to Robert Bruce
- Margaret Livingston who married John Strachan of Thornton
- Thomas Livingston
- William Livingston

Alexander Livingston also had four “natural” sons who are referred to in Charters of the years 1525, 1530 and 1542. It appears that Alexander and the unknown mother(s) of these children didn’t bother to undertake the formality of a church ceremony:

- John Livingston
- Laurence Livingston
- Matthew Livingston
- **Thomas Livingston**, founder of the Livingstons of Kirkland and Airth, mentioned next.

Generation Five

Thomas Livingston of Kirkland and Airth

Died after 1566

Thomas’ father entailed upon him seven oxgangs of the Halls of Airth on July 2, 1529 or 1530. These lands were in the barony of Bothkennar, Stirlingshire.

Note:

- “entail” means “to settle on a series of heirs, so that the immediate possessor may not dispose of the estate.” It appears that Thomas’ father wanted to make sure the land would stay in the family and not be sold off.
- an “oxgang” is a measure of land, as much as an ox could gang over or cultivate; and it varied from as little as 8 acres to as much as 20 acres. In Scotland, it was generally about 13 acres; so Thomas owned about 90 acres.

Thomas married his second wife Agnes Menteith, a daughter of Alexander Menteith before October 22, 1551 on which date he entailed to her and her legitimate issue the seven oxgangs of the Halls of Airth. Thomas and Agnes had a son:

- **Alexander Livingston of the Halls of Airth and Falkirk**, mentioned next.

Generation Six

Alexander Livingston of the Halls of Airth and Falkirk

Alexander appears to have inherited the land associated with the Halls of Airth and he also owned land in Falkirk. He married to Marion (or Marlan) Bryson of Falkirk, and their eldest daughter was:

- **Agnes Livingston**, mentioned next.

Generation Seven

Agnes Livingston of Falkirk

Born circa 1585

Died circa 1617

Agnes married on December 14, 1600 to {**Reverend**} **William Livingston, M.A.**, Minister of Monyabroch. The marriage was proclaimed on January 6, 1601. (See *Livingston*, Generation Twelve) Agnes and William were 5th cousins once removed, their common ancestor being Sir Alexander Livingston of Callendar. (See *Livingston*, Generation Five)

Source

Florence Van Rensselaer: *The Livingston Family in America and Its Scottish Origins*, New York, 1949 pages 66 – 68.

Livingston: Livingston of Kilsyth

Generation One

William Livingston of Balcastell and Wester Kilsyth

Died in 1459.

William was a son of Sir John Livingston of Callendar and Agnes Douglas, daughter of Sir James Douglas of Dalkeith. (See *Livingston*, Generation Four.) William married in 1420 to Elizabeth de Caldcotis, a daughter of William de Caldcotis, with whom he got the lands of Graden in Berwickshire. A Papal dispensation dated November 10, 1421 was obtained from Rome as William and Elizabeth were related in the third degree of consanguinity.

William and Elizabeth had a son:

- **Edward Livingston of Balcastell and Kilsyth**, mentioned next.

Generation Two

Edward Livingston of Balcastell and Kilsyth

Died circa April to October 1432.

Edward married to Margaret de Dunbar, a daughter of Dunbar of Cumnock, and they had a son:

- **William Livingston of Kilsyth**, mentioned next.

Generation Three

William Livingston of Kilsyth

Died at the Battle of Flodden, September 9, 1513.

William married on December 19, 1480 to Elizabeth Graham, a daughter of Patrick, Lord Graham of Montrose and Christian Erskine, a grand daughter of Elizabeth Stuart, daughter of King Robert (II) of Scotland. (See *Scotland*, Generation Thirty-one.) William and Elizabeth had a son:

- **William Livingston of Kilsyth**, mentioned next.

Generation Four

William Livingston of Kilsyth

Died before July 21, 1545

William succeeded his father after the Battle of Flodden (September 9, 1513).

“William was the eldest son and heir to the lands of Castletoun and Balmallock on March 15, 1513/14 and son and heir of the late William Livingston of Kilsyth who had died under the King’s banner in the battle in Northumberland” (Florence Van Rensselaer: *The Livingston Family in America and Its Scottish Origins*, New York, 1949. page 46)

William married on October 16, 1504 to Janet Bruce of Airth, a daughter of Sir John Bruce of Airth. (See *Livingston: Bruce of Airth*, Generation Six)

Janet and William had a son:

- **Alexander Livingston of Over & Nether Inches**, mentioned next.

Generation Five

Alexander Livingston of Over & Nether Inches

Died circa 1564

Alexander married Barbara Forrester, a daughter of Sir Duncan Forrester, and they had a daughter:

- **Barbara Livingston of Kilsyth**, who married {Reverend} Alexander Livingston, M.A. (See *Livingston*, Generation Eleven.)

Source

Florence Van Rensselaer: *The Livingston Family in America and Its Scottish Origins*, New York, 1949, pages 45 and 46.

Livingston: Penman

Gideon Penman, minister of Crichton, married in September 1651 to Jean Livingston, a daughter of {Rev} William Livingston. (See *Livingston*, Generation Twelve.) Gideon Penman was said to be a figure in witch-dance fertility rites. Details are as follows:

“GIDEON PENMAN of Hagbrae, son William Penman; educated at University of Edinburgh; M.A. (23rd July 1636); licensed by the Presbytery of Dalkeith 3rd May 1638; admitted (assistant) 2nd July 1639; presented to the vicarage by Francis, second Earl of Buccleuch; collated 18th, and instituted 30th March 1641. An Act of Parliament was passed in his favour, 15th March 1661, for payment of bygone stipend. Deposed for adultery, 4th March 1675. He was ordered to be apprehended for witchcraft, 4th Aug. 1678, and imprisoned for the same, 3rd Oct. 1678. He married (1) (contract 19th Feb. 1642) Martha, eldest daughter of James Scott of Hagbrae: (2) Sept. 1651, Jean, daughter of William Livingston, minister of Lanark, and had issue - George of Hagbrae; James; William, merchant, Edinburgh; and a daughter who married David Ker, merchant, Edinburgh”

(Reverend Hugh Scott: *Fasti ecclesiae Scoticae: the succession of ministers in the Church of Scotland*. Vol. 1: *Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale*, Edinburgh, Oliver and Boyd, 1914, page 312)

More graphic details can be found in *The Witch-Cult in Western Europe* by Margaret Alice Murray, 1863 - 1963. (The dates are correct; she lived to be one hundred years of age.) Ms. Murray was an archeologist and a specialist in Egyptian hieroglyphics and Egyptology. An ardent feminist, she claimed that the persecution of witches was an attack of the patriarchal establishment on ancient, woman-centered religions. Ms. Murray claimed these ancient religions were rooted in European Pagan fertility cults that extended back to the Palaeolithic era. This caused a deal of controversy among her peers and her opinions were ridiculed. Here is what Margaret Alice Murray reported on Gideon Penman:

“Another Scotch example is Mr. Gideon Penman, who had been minister at Crichton. He usually ‘was in the rear in all their dances, and beat up all those that were slow’”

(Margaret Alice Murray: *The Witch-Cult in Western Europe*, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1921. Ch. V)

And:

“Mr. Gideon Penman (1678), who had once been minister at Crichton, went to the Sabbaths, where the Devil spoke of him as ‘Mr. Gideon, my chaplain’. The witches said that ‘ordinarily Mr. Gideon was in the rear in all their dances, and beat up those that were slow’. This Mr. Gideon seems to be the same person as the ‘warlock who formerly had been admitted to the ministrie in the Presbyterian times, and now he turnes a preacher under the devill.--This villan was assisting to Satan in this action’ [giving the sacrament]’ and in preaching.”

“The former minister of Crichton, Mr. Gideon Penman, acted as the Devil’s chaplain; ‘ordinarily Mr. Gideon was in the rear in all their dances, and beat up all those that were slow.’”

(Margaret Alice Murray: *The Witch-Cult in Western Europe*, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1921. Ch. VII)

Livingston: Schuyler

W. Darcy McKeough shows the ancestors and relatives of Robert “The Nephew” Livingston’s wife, Margareta Schuyler, in *The McKeough Family Tree, Section #44, Livingston* as follows:

“Margareta Schuyler was the daughter of Col. Peter Schuyler (1657 -1724) and Engeltie Van Shaik. Col. Peter was a Lieut. of Cavalry in the Albany Militia, became the first Mayor of Albany in 1686 and head of the Board of Indian Commissioners. In 1690 and 1691 he led expeditions to Canada; and was the acting Governor of the State of New York in 1719-1720. They had four children - three dying the fourth being Margareta Schuyler.

“His second marriage in 1691 was to Maria Van Rensselaer - three sons - one of whom was Phillip who married Margareta Schuyler, daughter of Johannes (a brother of Col. Peter) Schuyler (1688 - 1747) and Elizabeth Statts. (See *Wessels*.)

“Col. Peter Schuyler was the second son of Phillip Pieterse Van Schuyler (d. 1683) who came to Albany between 1629 & 1639 from Amsterdam, held the offices of Magistrate and of Captain under both Dutch and English governors. Phillip Pieterse Van Schuyler married Dec. 12, 1650 to Margarita Van Schlichtenhorst (1628 - 1711). They had ten children, seven living children when she died.

“Margarita Van Schlichtenhorst was the daughter of Brant Arentse Van Schlichtenhorst (d. 1660 in Holland) who came to New Nederland in 1648 from Nykerk in Gelderland as Resident-Director of the Patroonship, or colony, of Rensselaerwek. His wife had died and he came with two children - Margarita above and Gerrit.

(Note: Gerrit Van Schlichtenhorst was involved in selling brandy to Indians, and he had a combination sword/wrestling/fist fight with Jochem Wessels. (See: *Wessels*.)

“A sister of Col. Peter Schuyler, Alvida, married first to Nicholas Van Rensselaer, and married second to Robert Livingston “the Grantee” (1654 - 1728) the first Lord of the Manor.”

From the above account, we have the ancestors of Margareta Schuyler as follows:

- I. **Brant Arentse Van Schlichtenhorst** (d. 1660 in Holland) who came to New Nederland in 1648
- II. **Margarita Van Schlichtenhorst** (1628 - 1711); married Dec. 12, 1650 to Phillip Pieterse Van Schuyler
- III. **Col. Peter Schuyler** (1657 -1724); married Engeltie Van Shaik.
- IV. **Margareta Schuyler**; married in 1697 to Robert “the Nephew” Livingston (See *Livingston, Generation Fifteen*)

Sources

W. Darcy McKeough: *The McKeough Family Tree, Section #44, Livingston*.

Clare Brandt, *An American Aristocracy: The Livingstons*, New York, 1986, ISBN 0385158750

