

John de LASSELL & Elizabeth de RAMSAY

John de LASSELL

B Fife Scotland

D Fife Scotland

M Fife Scotland

Elizabeth de RAMSAY

B Fife Scotland

D before 1340 Fife Scotland

Children:

1. William de LASSELL born before 1340 Fife Scotland
2. Margaret Mariote de LASSELL born before 1340 Fife Scotland
3. Agnes de LASSELL born before 1340 Fife Scotland

John de LASSELL was born in Fife Scotland. John's mother was Margaret de LASSELL. It is not known who his father was but he would have been a descendant of Alexander de LECELLES our original ancestor who came from Flanders in France and settled in Priestley Estate Fife Scotland.

Elizabeth de RAMSAY was born in Fife Scotland. Elizabeth's parents were William de RAMSAY Earl of Fife and Elizabeth MACDUFF Countess of Fife.

John de LASSELL married Elizabeth de RAMSAY in Fife Scotland.

John and Elizabeth had a son William de LASSELL who was born before 1340 in Fife Scotland.

John and Elizabeth had a daughter Margaret Mariote de LASSELL who was born before 1340 in Fife Scotland.

John and Elizabeth had a daughter Agnes de LASSELL who was born before 1340 in Fife Scotland.

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)

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

Elizabeth de LASSELL nee de RAMSAY died before 1340 in Fife Scotland. Her husband John de LASSELL died after 1340 in Fife Scotland.

The Scotsman Tuesday 25 December 1894

The Scottish Origin of Ferdinand de Lesseps – Guernsey December 21 1894

Sir- Having just received a copy of your paper stated the 13th inst. Containing a letter signed APP refereeing to the Scottish origin of the late Ferdinand de Lesseps it may interest some of your readers to know that he called upon the late John Lessels architect when in Edinburgh and claimed distant kinsmanship as one of his ancestors had been a native of Fifeshire of the name Lessels which name he stated had been corrupted in France into Lesseps and strange to say other members of the family when staying in for a lengthened period in France have been more frequently called Lesseps than Lessels.

This ancient family claims its origin from a learned French Priest of the name of Alexander de Lascelles who accompanied his friend the renowned Sir Michael Scott of Balwearie on his return from France about the middle of the thirteenth century receiving from him for the maintenance of his wife and children a grant of a stone biggin barn, byre and woodshed with three acres of land adjoining Balwearie for which he was to pay a yearly rental of twenty pounds Scots money and sixteen kamed hens as long as grass grew and water ran. This property descended from father to son until about 1805 when it was acquired by the Laird of Raith in consideration of his undertaking to maintain the widow of John Lessels who died the year previous as long as she lived. On the completion of this arrangement the house and buildings were pulled down, trees felled

and the land added to Balwearie farm which had been recently purchased by Mr Ferguson. It is situated in the same field as the Kirkcaldy Rifle buffs on the right hand side of the road leading from Windyates to Balwearie and was called Priestlies (as Alexander de Lascelles the priest is said to have been buried in this land) which name it still bears after a lapse of over 600 years.

As your correspondent APP says the name has been spelt in various ways it appears in the charter about 1350 as Johanni de Lassell (all the eldest sons of the race being called John) and in a later deed it is spelt Lascell. - I am &c JOHN LESSELS

(Reference ProQuest website The Scotsman Tuesday 25 December 1894 page 7)

Prestley Estate - Balwearie Castle - Raith Estate - Fife Scotland

Comment - The Lessels families throughout the centuries have been connected to the Prestley Estate, Balwearie Castle and Raith Estate in Fife 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)

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)

The June 1757 surveyed map of Raith Estate property of Robert Ferguson Esq. records to the left of Ballweiry Miln the Priest-leys Terbane [sic]. It also records 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)



1757 Map Kirkcaldy Fife Scotland

